

## A bid to revive talks

Former negotiators draw up peace plan for Israel and Palestine. **News, Page 4**

## Help for workers

White House outlines plan to promote union membership. **News, Page 8**

## Test rate drops below 5%

State's daily coronavirus positivity rate drops to 4.8%. **Connecticut, Page 1**

## Milder

Mixed clouds and sunshine; high of 44. **Sports, Page 6**

# Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXVI

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

### CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

## School mask mandate may be lifted

As metrics improve, Lamont pushing for shift to local control

By Alex Putterman

Hartford Courant

For the first time since the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Connecticut chil-

dren will likely soon be permitted to go maskless in schools and childcare settings.

Gov. Ned Lamont announced Monday that he will recommend the state lift its mask mandate as of Feb. 28, leaving decisions on whether to require masks up to local school districts.

"I think that we're at a very different place than we were six months ago," Lamont said, citing

the prevalence of vaccines, booster shots and N95 masks. "Certainly a very different place than we were a year ago."

Though Lamont's emergency powers are set to expire next week, the state legislature is expected to extend certain orders he has signed during the pandemic, including one concerning masks in schools and childcare settings.

That will leave the deci-

sion whether to require masks in schools in the hands of the commissioners of public health and education, both of whom voiced support Monday for the timeline Lamont outlined.

"One thing that we're going to have to get used to [is] the idea of ramping up and ramping down the various tools and interventions that we have that can prevent the spread of disease," Dr. Manisha

Juthani, the state's public health commissioner, said. "And if transmission and overall rates of this virus are down, a community can decide that it is a time when masks are likely less necessary, especially if you have a highly vaccinated population."

Mask mandates will remain in place in health care facilities, on

**Turn to Masks, Page 2**



Mike Song, whose 15-year-old son died from a gunshot wound, embraces U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal after speaking at the state Capitol in support of Gov. Ned Lamont's legislative proposals on gun violence in Connecticut. Lamont unveiled a multi-pronged, \$64 million package.

MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

## Lamont unveils \$64M gun control package

Also calls for 'ghost gun' registration, more police hiring, training

By Christopher Keating

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont unveiled a \$64 million gun control and law enforcement package Monday that calls for strengthening gun enforcement, hiring more police, reducing court backlogs, helping crime victims, and tracking guns more efficiently.

The package calls for spending millions of dollars for hiring and training police, along with creating a new gun-tracing task force to stem the steady flow of illegal guns that cross the Connecticut border on a constant basis. Money will also be set aside for a statewide program to buy guns back from owners in order to get them out of circulation.

Lamont also wants to slow down the spread of "ghost guns," which are banned in Connecticut. The homemade guns — which do not have serial numbers — currently do not require registration if crafted before 2019. The new registration would allow the



COURANT FILE PHOTO

**"We have more damn guns in the street than ever before in this state right now. ... You're not tough on crime if you're weak on guns. We're going to continue to stay tough on guns."**

— Gov. Ned Lamont

guns to be traced.

Even though Connecticut is seen as a leader nationally in gun control, Lamont says the number of homicides and other crimes recently show the efforts do not go far enough.

"I've just been shocked over this last couple of years. We have more damn guns in the street than ever before in this state right now," Lamont told reporters at the state Capitol in Hartford. "We have more legal guns. We have more illegal guns. They're coming in from out of state. More guns in the street, more guns in the home means more gun violence."

Lamont added, "You're not tough on crime if you're weak on guns. We're going to continue to stay tough on guns."

To ensure that criminal cases move more smoothly, Lamont says he might nominate as many as 20 judges to fill vacancies in the Superior Court.

**Turn to Guns, Page 2**

## Allies press diplomacy on Ukraine on 2 fronts

Biden meets with leader of Germany; Macron, Putin talk

By Sylvie Corbet, Aamer Madhani and Vladimir Isachenkov

Associated Press

MOSCOW — In a flurry of diplomacy across two continents, President Joe Biden emerged from a meeting with Germany's new leader Monday vowing the crucial Nord Stream 2 Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline would be blocked if Russia further invades Ukraine. Russia's Vladimir Putin said the U.S. and its allies were the only ones talking about invasion.

Putin and French President

Emmanuel Macron met for hours in Moscow at the same time Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke at the White House in efforts to defuse the crisis before armed conflict breaks out. Russia has massed thousands of troops at the Ukraine border, adding military might almost daily.

The White House has expressed increasing alarm about the prospects of a war, and Biden has been looking to solidify support among European allies for economy-jarring sanctions against Russia if it moves further with an invasion.

"We are jointly ready, and all of NATO is ready," Biden said, referring to the powerful Western alliance, though Ukraine is not a

**Turn to Diplomacy, Page 3**



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, left, and U.S. President Joe Biden speak to reporters before the start of a bilateral meeting at the White House on Monday in Washington. ALDRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES-POOL/GETTY

## Senators aim to halt natural gas exports

A group of U.S. senators, including Sen. Richard Blumenthal, is targeting natural gas exports as a culprit behind rising home heating prices. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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## FROM PAGE ONE

### Masks

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public transit and in correctional facilities, Lamont said.

Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers have improved substantially in recent weeks, with the state's seven-day average of new cases dropping from more than 10,000 at one point in January to 1,268 currently.

Masks in schools and childcare settings are one of the few pandemic control measures remaining in place in Connecticut after most were repealed last spring.

Until recently, Lamont had maintained that masks were necessary in

those venues given the close proximity of students over long periods of time.

Lamont said Monday he would consider recommending a restoration of a statewide mask mandate in schools if another COVID-19 variant emerged but that he didn't expect that to happen in the near future.

"If 'zombiecron' comes along and it spikes up as fast as its sister omicron does, we would reserve the right to make a change, to keep you safe," he said.

Lamont's announcement on masks in schools comes after governors in New Jersey and Delaware announced timelines for the end of their respective school mask

mandates. In New Jersey, the mandate will end March 7, while in Delaware it will last through March 31.

"We are not going to manage COVID to zero," Murphy, a Democrat, tweeted Monday. "We have to learn how to live with COVID as we move from a pandemic to an endemic phase of this virus."

Connecticut's school mask mandate has sparked increasing debate in recent weeks.

Some parents have argued they should have a choice of whether to send their kids to school in masks, while others — as well as major teachers' unions — have maintained that universal masking remains necessary to keep all students and

staff safe.

Health experts in Connecticut have largely weighed in on favor of keeping a broad mask mandate in place. Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, said Monday he would wait a few more weeks.

"When it comes to rescinding mask mandates, the best thing I can say is that maybe getting through the respiratory season, which would be February, and then possibly think about rescinding it in March would be something to consider," Wu said.

Dr. Juan Salazar, physician-in-chief at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, said even once the mandate is lifted, he will still recommend that parents send their kids to

school in masks.

"If I'm a parent, I'm still going to tell my son or daughter, 'Look, for the next two or three weeks go and ahead and still wear your masks,'" he said. "That's just common sense."

Fran Rabinowitz, executive director of the Connecticut Association of School Superintendents, said she supports the Lamont Administration's decision to lift the school mask mandate and leave authority with local officials.

"If they feel that we are at a place now where we can move to a different path, I'm fine with that," she said.

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### Guns

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"I'm interviewing them right now with Nora [Dannehy] ... and I'd like to see them on board in the next 90 days," Lamont said of his chief legal counsel.

Judges must be interviewed by the legislature's judiciary committee and are then subject to approval by the full House of Representatives and Senate. The 2022 regular legislative session starts Wednesday.

The totals include \$23 million for the courts, \$19 million for law enforcement, \$18 million for crime victims, and \$4 million for forensic science investigations, including mobile crime labs.

Republicans immediately blasted Lamont's ideas as an election-year ploy. Rep. Craig Fishbein of Wallingford and Rep. Gregory Howard of Stonington — two leaders on law enforcement issues in the House Republican caucus — said that carjackings and burglaries are at an unacceptable level.

"While lawful Connecticut citizens are, on an almost daily basis, being victimized by brazen criminals with little fear of punishment, the governor has chosen an aged election-year tactic of attacking law-abiding gun owners in an effort to distract from his administration's utter failure to address criminal justice policies," they said. "Everyone in Connecticut needs only answer one question to understand: Am I safer today, in my own driveway, than I was before Gov. Lamont took office? [We] hardly think that anyone in Connecticut believes that they are."

The Republicans added, "If the governor were truly serious about reducing crimes, and particularly gun crimes, he would work to strengthen state law by fully funding the Statewide Firearms Trafficking Task Force, lifting prohibitions on motor vehicle searches, reinstating qualified immunity for law enforcement during the course of their duties, and holding our judicial system accountable. Pointing attention to

shiny objects, while ignoring the root causes, is not governance. It is manipulation through governmental negligence."

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford said that more than 10,000 shots were fired last year in Bridgeport alone, adding that Connecticut needs more job opportunities to keep people employed and off the streets.

"This is about so much more than guns, although that is where the governor wants the focus," he said. "It is about the permissive policies enacted by Democrats that enable violent repeat offenders to continue committing crimes. It is about our state being dead last in job growth and income growth and lacking the opportunities to help people avoid turning to crime in the first place."

Only hours before Lamont made his announcement, a 21-year-old woman was killed and a second woman critically injured Monday when they were shot in Hartford's West End. The shooting marked the second homicide in the city in fewer than 24 hours

and the year's third killing in the city.

Both women were shot in an apartment at 16 Evergreen Ave. when they were in bed, according to police. A survivor was listed at a hospital in critical condition.

Since Jan. 1, 12 people — including three teenagers — have been struck by gunfire in the capital city. In 2021, Hartford had 35 homicides, representing an increase of 40% from the previous year.

Lamont's package comes after previous allocations of \$2.5 million for pandemic-related costs to allow local police departments to hire more officers and another \$2.5 million to help patrol officers as they try to stop repeat crimes by juveniles and adults.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence hailed Lamont for offering a bill that would block a gun permit for anyone convicted of a domestic violence crime. He is also calling for spending \$18 million in state funds to cover lost federal money

that was related to the Victims of Crime Act, known as VOCA, for behavioral health counseling and victim services, among others.

"Throughout the pandemic we have seen an increase in the complexity of issues facing survivors of domestic violence, and a growing need for funding and reforms aimed at helping and protecting them," said Meghan Scanlon, the coalition's chief executive officer. "Keeping guns out of the hands of individuals who have been convicted of family violence crimes is a commonsense measure that has been proven to save lives."

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said that President Joe Biden is moving to eliminate "ghost guns" by executive order, rather than waiting for a vote by Congress, which has been reluctant for years to enact gun control.

"Ghost guns are probably the biggest emerging threat right now," Blumenthal said. "The president is very focused on ghost guns."

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Monday, Feb. 7

**PLAY3 DAY** 3 5 8 **WB: 7** **PLAY4 DAY** 6 7 6 6 **WB: 4**

### SUNDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

#### PLAY3 NIGHT

2 6 6 **WB: 4**

#### PLAY4 NIGHT

5 4 6 1 **WB: 8**

#### CASH 5

6 16 28 31 35

#### LUCKY FOR LIFE

24 25 33 37 40 **LB: 8**

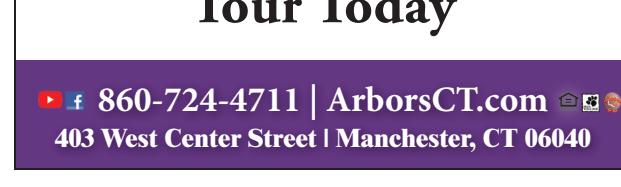
**Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot:** \$1.3 million

**Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot:** \$31 million

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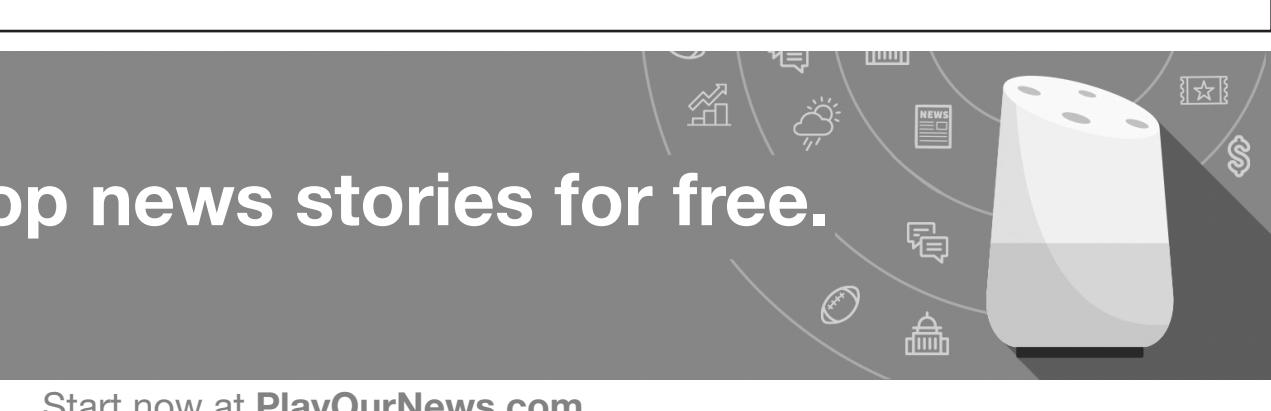
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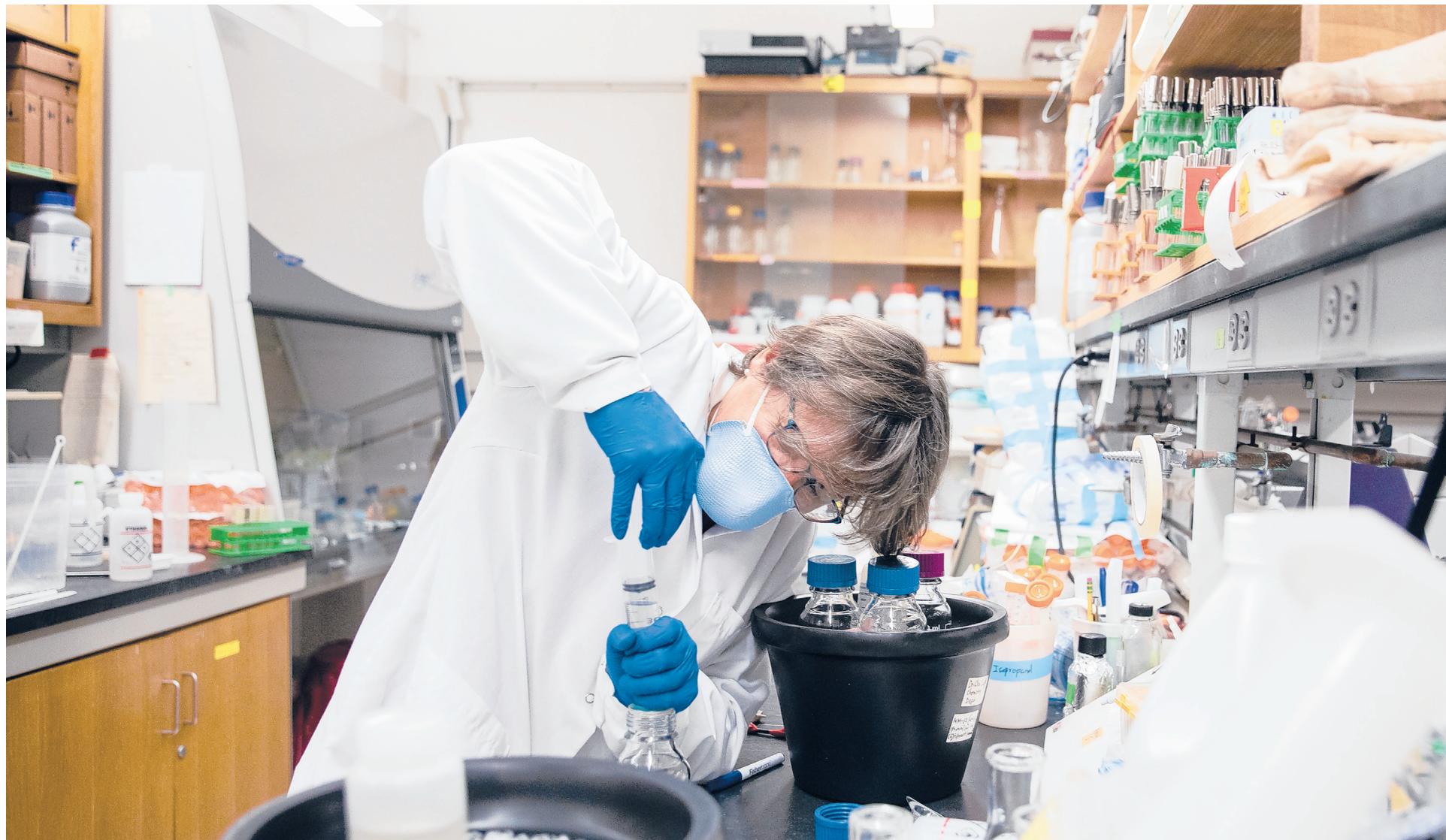
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Monica Trujillo, a Queensborough Community College microbiologist, filters bacteria from wastewater containing traces of coronavirus. Scientists have been trying to find the source of odd coronavirus sequences. JACKIE MOLLOY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## NYC's sewage providing a pandemic mystery

By Emily Anthes  
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Last January, researchers searching for the coronavirus in New York City's wastewater spotted something strange in their samples. The viral fragments they found had a unique constellation of mutations that had never been reported before in human patients — a potential sign of a new, previously undetected variant.

For the past year, these oddball sequences, or what the scientists call "cryptic lineages," have continued to pop up in the city's wastewater.

There is no evidence that the lineages, which have been circulating for at least a year without overtaking delta or omicron, pose an elevated health risk to humans.

But the researchers, whose findings were published last week in *Nature Communications*, still have no idea where they came from.

"At this point, what we can say is that we haven't found the cryptic lineages in human databases, and we have looked all over," said Monica Trujillo, a microbiologist at Queensborough Community College and an author of the new paper.

The researchers themselves are torn about the lineages' origins.

Some lean toward the explanation that the virus is coming from people whose infections aren't being captured by sequencing. But others suspect that the lineages may be coming from virus-infected animals, possibly the city's enormous population of rats.

Even then, the favored theory can change from day-to-day or hour-to-hour. Answers remain elusive.

"I think it's really important that we find the source, and we have not been able to pin that down," said John Dennehy, a virologist at Queens College and an author of the paper.

The researchers — who also include Marc Johnson, a virologist at the University of Missouri; David Smyth, a microbiologist at Texas A&M University; and others — have been sampling wastewater from 14 treatment plants in New York City since June 2020.

In January 2021, they began doing targeted sequencing of the samples, focusing on part of the gene for the virus's all-important spike protein.

Although this approach

provides a limited look at the viral genome, it allows

researchers to extract a lot of data from wastewater, in which the virus is typically fragmented. Viral fragments with novel patterns of mutations appeared repeatedly at a handful of treatment plants, the researchers found. (They could not disclose the specific plants or areas of the city, they said.)

"To date we have not seen these variants among clinical patients in NYC," said Michael Lanza, a spokesperson for New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley have found similar sequences in one California sewershed, said Rose Kantor, a microbiologist at the university.

The scientists' continuing quest to figure out where the sequences are coming from highlights both the potential of wastewater surveillance, which can help scientists keep tabs on how the virus is evolving, and the challenge of

making sense of any anomalies pulled out of the murk.

"We really struggled trying to understand what it was that we had," Trujillo said.

The lineages could be

coming from people whose infections have escaped

detection or whose virus has not been sequenced. But the fact that they kept turning up at the same few wastewater plants makes this theory less likely, the researchers said, given that New Yorkers, and any variants they may be carrying, tend to move throughout the city without restriction.

Still, Dennehy speculated

that the sequences could be coming from people who are confined to long-term health care facilities in just a few areas of the city.

But he has not been able to prove it.

Intriguingly, some of the cryptic lineages have some of the same mutations as omicron, or mutations in the same locations. Lab experiments suggest that these lineages may also be able to evade some antibodies.

The New York City

lineages might be a result of

the same kind of selective

pressure to evade some of

the body's immune defenses,

the researchers theorize.

On the other hand, the

lineages have been circu-

lating for long enough

now that they should have

appeared in at least one

sample sequenced from

an infected person, some

scientists said.

"To have something in

a sewershed that you're

detecting, you need a fair

bit of it around," said Dr. Adam Loring, a virologist at the University of Michigan, who was not involved in the research.

Johnson agrees.

He favors the hypothesis that the sequences are coming from animals, perhaps a few specific populations with limited territories.

In May and June of 2021, when the number of human COVID-19 cases in the city was low, the mysterious lineages made up a greater proportion of the viral RNA in wastewater, suggesting that they may have come from a nonhuman source.

The researchers initially considered a diverse array of potential hosts, from squirrels to skunks.

"This is a very promising virus," Johnson said. "It can infect all kinds of species."

To narrow down the

possibilities, they went back

to the wastewater, assuming that any animal that was shedding virus might be leaving its own genetic material behind too.

Although a vast majority of the genetic material in the water came from humans, small amounts of RNA from dogs, cats and rats were also present, the scientists found.

Johnson has been consider-

ing rats, which roam the

city by the millions. In his lab, he created pseudoviruses — harmless, nonreplicating viruses — with the same mutations present in the cryptic sequences. The pseudoviruses were able to infect both mouse and rat cells, he found. The original version of the virus does not appear able to infect rodents, although some other variants, like beta, can.

"So in and of itself, that isn't huge data, but it is at least consistent with the idea that it's coming from rodents," Johnson said.

Since last summer, the scientists have been working with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture to look for signs of the virus in blood and fecal samples from local rats. So far, they've come up empty.

"Maybe we're not hitting the right animals," Dennehy said.

So the search continues.

Johnson has developed a new technique that can amplify only non-omicron sequences, which should make it easier to detect the lineages. He has also begun searching for similar lineages in sewage samples from other states, which might help provide further clues to their origins.

"We will know eventually," Johnson said.

## Diplomacy

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member.

While Biden reiterated with certitude that the pipeline would not move forward, Scholz stressed the need to keep some ambiguity about sanctions in order to press Russia to de-escalate the crisis.

"It's necessary for Russia to understand that a lot more could happen than they've perhaps calculated with themselves," Scholz said.

The buildup of more than 100,000 Russian troops near the border with Ukraine has fueled Western worries of a possible offensive.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan warned Sunday that Russia could invade Ukraine "any day," triggering a conflict that would come at an "enormous human cost."

Putin described his lengthy talks with Macron at the Kremlin as business-like. He noted that the U.S. and its NATO allies have ignored Moscow's demands for security guarantees.

He derided the Western criticism of the Russian military buildup near



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and French President Emmanuel Macron, right, during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow on Monday. Macron traveled to Moscow in a bid to help defuse tensions amid a Russian troop buildup near Ukraine that has fueled fears of an invasion. KREMLIN POOL PHOTOS VIA AP

international agreements and scoffed at Western assurances that it is a defensive alliance that doesn't threaten Russia.

"People of Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan have had learned it from their own experience," the Russian leader said in a sarcastic reference to the U.S. allies' involvement in military campaigns in those countries. He also referenced NATO's 1999 bombing campaign in the former Yugoslavia.

He derided the Western criticism of the Russian military buildup near

Ukraine, saying that "NATO members consider it possible to lecture us about our troops movements on our own territory and cast them as a threat of Russian invasion."

Russia has denied any plans to attack its neighbor but demands that the U.S. and its allies bar Ukraine and other former Soviet nations from joining NATO, halt weapons deployments there and roll back NATO forces from Eastern Europe. Washington and NATO reject those demands.

Unswayed, Biden on Monday said "it would be

wise" for Americans other than essential diplomats to leave Ukraine amid the Russian military threat.

On a positive note, Putin said without elaboration that some of Macron's proposals could serve as a

basis for a settlement of the

conflict in eastern Ukraine,

adding that they agreed to

have a call after Macron's

visit to Kyiv on Tuesday.

Likewise, Biden said

when asked if there

remained an "offramp" for

Russia in the standoff. "The

answer is yes."

Macron said after his

"substantial, deep" meeting

told the French newspaper *Journal du Dimanche*.

The State Department has been warning American citizens to reconsider any plans to travel to Ukraine since last year due to the buildup of Russian forces near the border. In January, it upgraded that advice, urging U.S. citizens not to travel to Ukraine or to leave the country if they are already there.

That stepped-up warning came as the department ordered the families of all American staffers at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to depart and allowed non-essential diplomats stationed there to leave.

Before meeting with Biden, Scholz told German media that "there will be a very high price if Ukraine is attacked militarily. And we are preparing for this very precisely and have been talking about the details for a long time." Scholz will travel to Kyiv and Moscow on Feb. 14-15.

Biden has deployed additional U.S. troops to Poland, Romania and Germany, and a few dozen elite U.S. troops and equipment landed Sunday in southeastern Poland near Ukraine, with hundreds more infantry troops set to arrive.

with Putin: "The upcoming days will be crucial and deep discussions together will be needed ... to build new guarantees for peace and security" for the European continent.

Macron, who heads Tues-

day to Ukraine, spoke by phone Sunday with Biden. Before the Putin meeting, Macron said: "I don't believe in spontaneous miracles."

"The security and sovereignty of Ukraine or any other European state cannot be a subject for compromise, while it is also legitimate for Russia to pose the question of its own security," Macron

said.

Johnson has developed a new technique that can amplify only non-omicron sequences, which should make it easier to detect the lineages. He has also begun searching for similar lineages in sewage samples from other states, which might help provide further clues to their origins.

"We will know eventually," Johnson said.

# WORLD & NATION

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## A bid to revive Mideast peace talks

Former Palestinian, Israeli negotiators propose new path

By Joseph Krauss

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Former Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators have drawn up a new proposal for a two-state confederation that they hope will offer a way forward after a decadelong stalemate in Mideast peace efforts.

The plan includes several controversial proposals, and it's unclear if it has any support among leaders on either side. But it could help shape the debate over the conflict and will be presented to a senior U.S. official and the U.N. secretary-general this week.

The plan calls for an independent state of Palestine in most of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel and Palestine would have separate governments but coordinate at a very high level on security, infrastructure and other issues that affect both populations.

The plan would allow the nearly 500,000 Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank to remain there, with large settlements near the border annexed to Israel in a one-to-one land swap.

Settlers living deep inside the West Bank would have the option of relocating or becoming permanent residents in the state of Palestine. The same number of Palestinians — likely refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation — would be allowed to relocate to Israel as citizens of Palestine with



The Jewish settlement Ma'ale Efrayim in the West Bank near the border with Jordan. ODED BALILY/AP 2020

permanent residency in Israel.

The initiative is largely based on the Geneva Accord, a detailed, comprehensive peace plan drawn up in 2003 by prominent Israelis and Palestinians, including former officials. The nearly 100-page confederation plan includes new, detailed recommendations for how to address core issues.

Yossi Beilin, a former senior Israeli official and peace negotiator who co-founded the Geneva Initiative, said that by taking the mass evacuation of settlers off the table, the plan could be more amenable to them.

Israel's political system

is dominated by the settlers and their supporters, who view the West Bank as the biblical and historical heartland of the Jewish people and an integral part of Israel.

The Palestinians view the settlements as the main obstacle to peace, and most of the international community considers them illegal. The settlers living deep inside the West Bank — who would likely end up within the borders of a future Palestinian state — are among the most radical and tend to oppose any territorial partition.

"We believe that if there is no threat of confrontations with the settlers, it would be much easier for those who

want to have a two-state solution," Beilin said. The idea has been discussed before, but he said a confederation would make it more "feasible."

Numerous other sticking points remain, including security, freedom of movement and perhaps most critically after years of violence and failed negotiations, lack of trust.

Israel's Foreign Ministry and the Palestinian Authority declined to comment.

The main Palestinian figure behind the initiative is Hiba Husseini, a former legal adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team going back to 1994 who hails from a prominent Jerusalem

family. Other contributors include Israeli and Palestinian professors and two retired Israeli generals.

Husseini acknowledged that the proposal regarding the settlers is "very controversial" but said the overall plan would fulfill the Palestinians' core aspiration for a state of their own.

"It's not going to be easy,"

she added. "To achieve statehood and to achieve the desired right of self-determination that we have been working on — since 1948, really — we have to make some compromises."

Thorny issues like the conflicting claims to Jerusalem, final borders and the fate of Palestinian refugees

could be easier to address by two states in the context of a confederation, rather than the usual approach of trying to work out all the details ahead of a final agreement.

"We're reversing the process and starting with recognition," Husseini said.

It's been nearly three decades since Israeli and Palestinian leaders gathered on the White House lawn to sign the Oslo accords, launching the peace process.

Several rounds of talks over the years, punctuated by outbursts of violence, failed to yield a final agreement, and there have been no serious or substantive negotiations in more than a decade.

Israel's current prime minister, Naftali Bennett, is a former settler leader opposed to Palestinian statehood. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who is set to take over as prime minister in 2023 under a rotation agreement, supports an eventual two-state solution.

But neither is likely to be able to launch any major initiatives because they head a narrow coalition spanning the political spectrum from hard-line nationalist factions to a small Arab party.

On the Palestinian side, President Mahmoud Abbas' authority is confined to parts of the occupied West Bank, with the Islamic militant group Hamas — which doesn't accept Israel's existence — ruling Gaza. Abbas' popularity has plummeted in recent years, meaning he is unlikely to be able to make any historic compromises.

The international community still views a two-state solution as the only realistic way to resolve the conflict.

## Black colleges on threats: 'We shall not be moved'

Hate crimes probe 'is of the highest priority,' FBI says

By Cheyanne Mumphrey and Jeff Martin

Associated Press

From her office in Birmingham, Alabama, DeJuana Thompson looks across the street and sees a daily reminder of terror. Her window overlooks the 16th Street Baptist Church, where a bomb in 1963 killed four young Black girls.

"Living in the era of bomb threats is not new to people of color," said Thompson, president and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Nearly six decades after that bombing by the Ku Klux Klan, the FBI is now investigating last week's bomb threats against at least 17 historically Black colleges and universities across the country.

Thompson said the threats underscore the need to teach new generations the history of violence targeting people of color so the lessons of the past can be applied to the present.

The FBI said the hate crimes probe involves more than 20 field offices and "is of the highest priority."

Investigators have identified at least five "persons of interest," a law enforcement official said. The official could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In one of the cases, a caller claiming to be affiliated with the neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division described a plot at Bethune-Cookman University in Florida involving seven bombs hidden in bags, Daytona Beach Police Chief Jakari Young said.

University campuses are considered "soft targets," but "they're not as soft as they used to be," said Robert McCrie, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Universities have traditionally been easily accessible to the public, but many hardened their security after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Now, photo IDs are needed to enter buildings on McCrie's campus and others, he said.

Though no devices were found at the schools threatened last week, "people of color don't have that privilege to think it's not real," said Lance Wheeler, director of exhibitions at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

The bomb threats against

Black institutions are rooted in U.S. history.

In Alabama, people used to call Birmingham "Birmingham" because of how many bombs and bomb threats occurred, Thompson said.

Among the many victims: the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a civil rights leader whose home was damaged on Christmas Day in 1956 by 16 sticks of dynamite placed beneath his bedroom window. When a KKK member suggested he leave town, Shuttlesworth responded that "I wasn't saved to run," Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., told the House of Representatives after Shuttlesworth died in 2011.

"How we responded then is how we are responding now," Thompson said. "We will not stand for these hate crimes, we will not stand for this intimidation, we shall not be moved."

The Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus' statement on the latest threats recalled 1969 racial segregation protests at North Carolina A&T that prompted an armed response by the National Guard and police.

One student was killed, dozens injured and more than 300 people arrested as gunfire was exchanged



The FBI is investigating bomb threats against 17 historically Black colleges and universities. Above, people outside Spelman College. JOHN SPINK/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

from campus buildings. The protests followed the first sit-in at a whites-only lunch counter by four Black men, later known as the Greensboro Four.

"We know from history that in spite of external threats, HBCUs are resilient institutions that will persist through all forms of adversity," the statement said.

Universities in Arkansas,

Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi and other states targeted last week have resumed operations

since the lockdowns. But many worry about future threats.

Maurice Mitchell, national director of the Working Families Party and strategist for the Movement for Black Lives, said HBCUs and independent Black institutions are targeted because they represent independence and resilience for African Americans, which is a threat to a white supremacist ideology.

National Urban League

President Marc Morial called the latest threats

"part of the poisonous tree of hate," putting them in the same category as legislative proposals that would suppress the vote, the Jan. 6 siege at the U.S. Capitol, a spike in hate crimes and backlash against affirmative action.

Delaware State University President Tony Allen said students and community members shouldn't let threats disrupt their spaces.

"Here is what I say to these bullies, these fearmongers of our day: 'We shall not be moved,'" he said.

## Biden's science adviser resigns amid signs of staff bullying

By Zeke Miller

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's top science adviser, Dr. Eric Lander, resigned Monday, hours after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation found credible evidence that he mistreated his staff.

An internal review last year, prompted by a workplace complaint, found evidence that Lander, director of the Office of Science

and Technology Policy and science adviser to Biden, bullied staffers and treated them disrespectfully.

The White House rebuked Lander over his treatment of his staff, but initially signaled Monday that he would be allowed to remain on the job, despite Biden's past assertion that he expected "honesty and decency" from all who worked for his administration and would fire anyone who shows disrespect to others "on the spot."

"I believe it is not possible to continue effectively in my role, and the work of this

But Monday night, press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden had accepted Lander's resignation with "gratitude for his work at OSTP on the pandemic, the Cancer Moonshot, climate change, and other key priorities."

Lander, in his resignation letter, said, "I am devastated that I caused hurt to past and present colleagues by the way in which I have spoken to them."

"I believe it is not possible to continue effectively in my role, and the work of this

office is far too important to be hindered," he added.

It marks the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

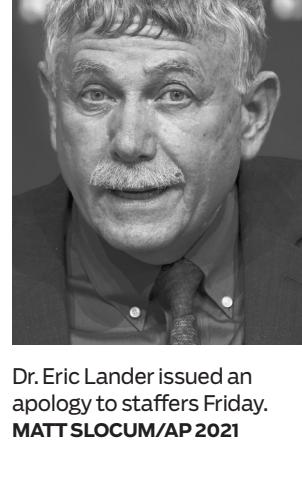
Earlier Monday, Psaki said senior administration officials had met with Lander about his actions and management of the office, but indicated he would be allowed to stay in the job, saying the administration was following a "process" to handle workplace complaints.

Lander on Friday issued

an apology to staffers in his office, acknowledging, "I have spoken to colleagues within OSTP in a disrespectful or demeaning way."

Lander, whose position was elevated to Cabinet-rank by Biden, appeared prominently with the president last week when he relaunched his "Cancer Moonshot" program to marshal federal resources behind research and treatment for cancer diseases.

Lander is a mathematician and molecular biologist.



Dr. Eric Lander issued an apology to staffers Friday.

MATT SLOCUM/AP 2021



# Young Lebanese turn to IS militancy

For some, despair behind drive to join extremists in Iraq

By Bassem Mroue  
and Fay Abuelgasim  
Associated Press

WADI NAHLEH, Lebanon — Two weeks before he was supposed to get married, Bakr Seif told his mother he was going to see his fiancee and would be back for lunch. When he did not show up by nighttime, his mother called the fiancee, who said he had not been to visit her.

That day, Dec. 8, was the last time Seif's mother saw him.

Late last month, he was among nine people killed in an Iraqi army airstrike targeting suspected militants in eastern Iraq. At least four of them were Lebanese — all from this impoverished village near the northern city of Tripoli.

As Lebanon slid deeper into economic misery over recent months, dozens of young men have disappeared from the country's marginalized north and later surfaced in Iraq, where they are believed to have joined the Islamic State group. The migration has stoked fears of a new wave of radical recruitment, taking advantage of frustration and despair fueled by the economic meltdown and sectarian tensions.

Many Lebanese have plummeted into poverty as the local currency has collapsed, the value of salaries and bank accounts has evaporated, and prices have soared. Before the crisis, Tripoli was Lebanon's poorest city — and things have only gotten worse with scores of young, seemingly unemployed men in the streets.

But it's not just poverty driving some young men to join IS.

Tripoli and its surrounding areas are also a center for many of Lebanon's



Umm Alaa, the mother of Omar Seif, speaks about her late son Feb. 2 in Wadi Nahleh, Lebanon. **BASSEM MROUE/AP**

Sunni Muslim community, who resent what they say is neglect from the government in Beirut. Security forces have targeted Sunni youth in crackdowns over militancy, and activists have

trust no one but my family," his mother said.

IS's top leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was killed last week in a U.S. raid on his safehouse in northwest Syria.

Experts believe that while his elimination may cause some short-term disruption, the group can replace him and continue its campaign of violence in Iraq and Syria.

The numbers of Lebanese apparently joining IS is nowhere near the hundreds who went to neighboring Syria to join rebels there, including ones linked to al-Qaida, at the height of that country's civil war. Since that war waned several years ago, the flow of Lebanese to join dried up.

The migration to join IS in Iraq appears to be new.

Lawyer Mohammed Sablouh, who heads the Center for Prisoners Rights for him to work in, since no one else would employ him after his release.

"He was living in constant fear. He used to tell me, 'I

trust no one but my family,' his mother said.

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"He was living in constant fear. He used to tell me, 'I

number is not known.

They were from the poorest districts and some may have been lured by the promise of jobs, not realizing they were joining IS, he said. Others were afraid of being swept up in crackdowns.

"These men are being manipulated by dark forces led by those who benefit from the revival of Daesh and want to harm the image of Tripoli," Sablouh said, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Tripoli has been the scene of militant violence in the past — the most serious in 2014, when militants inspired by the Islamic State group carried out attacks against Lebanon's army.

Disappearances of young men began to rise in late August, not long after a former military intelligence member, Ahmad Murad, was shot and killed in Tripoli.

In the subsequent search, the military said it arrested an IS cell that included

six militants involved in Murad's killing. It appears the capture of the cell led other IS cells in the north to go on the run.

Remnants of IS have been waging a campaign of frequent hit-and-run attacks in Syria and Iraq ever since the group lost its last shred of territory in Syria in March 2019.

They recently launched two of their boldest operations yet.

On Jan. 20, about 200 IS

militants attacked a prison in Syria's northeastern city of Hassakeh and were joined by rioting inmates.

It took more than a week for Kurdish-led U.S.-backed fighters to fully regain control over the prison in fighting that killed nearly 500, including several hundred militants, according to Kurdish officials.

On Jan. 21, IS gunmen in Iraq broke into a barracks in a mountainous area in Diyala province, killed a guard and shot dead 11 soldiers as they

slept.

On Jan. 30, Iraq's military carried out airstrikes on an IS cell it said was behind the barracks attack, killing nine militants, including Lebanese men.

Iraqi officials said four Lebanese were killed.

Families and the mayor of Wadi Nahleh, Fadel Seif, said there were five — Bakr Seif, his cousin Omar Seif and three friends — Youssef Shkheidem, Omar Shkheidem and Anas Jazair.

The extended Seif family is the largest in the village.

"There are several factors making the youth flee, and the main one is lack of jobs," the mayor said.

Omar Seif's mother, Umm Alaa, said he disappeared on the last day of 2021 and called her days later from a number she didn't recognize.

She informed Lebanese authorities, who told her Omar was in Iraq, using an Azeri telephone number.

"I said, he is dead (to me). I did not raise him in order to send him to Iraq or ... Syria or any other place," she said.

On Jan. 30, she received a call from another unknown number, telling her that her son had been killed.

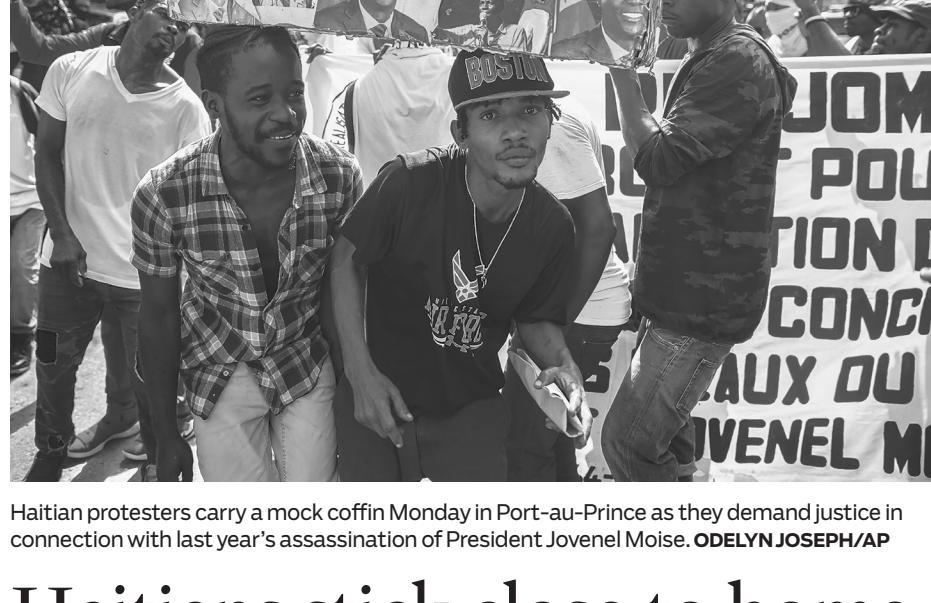
Omar's mother said he had long been harassed by Lebanese officials.

He spent years in prison, even as a juvenile, also on terrorism suspicions, she said.

After his release, he was repeatedly detained for short periods, when police would beat him up and give him electrical shocks, she said.

She said Omar could not live a normal life or work because authorities revoked his civil rights, meaning he could not vote or get a government job.

"When a young man who is between 15 and 30 cannot get married or buy anything or enter a restaurant to have a meal like all people, of course he will choose death and will be an easy target," she added.



Haitian protesters carry a mock coffin Monday in Port-au-Prince as they demand justice in connection with last year's assassination of President Jovenel Moise. **ODELYN JOSEPH/AP**

## Haitians stick close to home amid fear, political instability

By Danica Coto  
and Evens Sanon  
Associated Press

POR-T-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Schools and businesses across Haiti shuttered their doors Monday and large numbers of police patrolled the streets as the country confronted a grim anniversary.

Monday marked not only seven months since President Jovenel Moise was slain at his private residence but also the end of his term, with opponents demanding that Prime Minister Ariel Henry step down, arguing that his administration is unconstitutional.

Henry brushed aside those criticisms during a news conference Monday where he again pledged to create a provisional electoral council to pave the way for general elections. He noted that 36 years ago, former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled the country amid a violent uprising.

"Thirty-six years later, we must realize that we have failed to establish a truly democratic system," Henry said, adding that for every three steps forward,

the country goes back two steps.

Henry blamed the economy for most of Haiti's ongoing problems, saying it was too small to allow people to live well, get jobs or obtain good government services. He said his administration is fighting to reduce a surge in violence and is looking for more resources to help those in need.

"We know there is a lot of misery out there," he said.

Thousands of people opted to stay home Monday, afraid that even greater violence would erupt as Haiti's political instability deepens, kidnappings spike and gangs grow more powerful.

Lionel Fortune, a 33-year-old law student, was among the few who ventured outside and waited a long time for a public bus to materialize on the empty streets.

"This country has totally deteriorated," he said.

Henry has promised to hold general elections by the end of this year as his administration tries to improve security conditions.

Haiti currently has only

10 elected officials since it failed to hold legislative elections in October 2019 amid political gridlock and massive protests, with Moise ruling by decree for more than a year before he was killed. Since then, numerous opponents have challenged Henry and nominated their own leaders, moves that the prime minister has not recognized.

"The basic thing today is not to fight for a short-lived piece of power," Henry said. "No one has the authority or the right to meet at a hotel or abroad to decide in a small committee who is to be president or prime minister. All this is a distraction."

Bocchit Edmond, Haiti's ambassador to the U.S., said that Henry did not make himself prime minister but rather was chosen by a democratically elected president. He said the process of choosing an electoral council was very well advanced and called on opponents to dialogue with Henry and work together, adding that he remains optimistic elections will be held.

"My only fear is to see my country not moving forward," Edmond said.

Haiti currently has only

## Chinese tennis player walks back sex assault allegations

By John Leicester  
Associated Press

BEIJING — Nothing to see here, move on.

That was the message that Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai delivered Monday in a controlled interview in Beijing that touched on sexual assault allegations she made against a former high-ranking member of China's ruling Communist Party. Her answers — delivered in front of a Chinese Olympic official — left unanswered questions about her well-being and what happened.

The interview with French sports newspaper L'Equipe and an announcement that International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach met Peng for dinner over the weekend seemed aimed at allaying international concerns about the three-time Olympian and former No. 1-ranked tennis doubles player. Fears for Peng's safety have threatened to overshadow the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Peng told L'Equipe that the concerns were the result of "an enormous misunderstanding."

But the format of the interview appeared to limit follow-ups about the allegations and their aftermath. L'Equipe said it submitted questions in advance, a precondition for the interview, but also got to ask others that were unplanned.

A Chinese Olympic committee official sat on the discussion, translating Peng's comments from Chinese, the newspaper said. It said it also used an interpreter in Paris to ensure the accuracy of the comments that it published in French.

Large parts of the hour-long interview, conducted Sunday in a Beijing hotel and organized through China's Olympic committee with the IOC's help, focused

on Peng's playing career. At age 36, and after multiple knee surgeries, Peng said she couldn't envisage a return to tour-level professional tennis. She hasn't played on the women's tour since February of 2020.

L'Equipe asked Peng about sexual assault allegations that sparked the controversy in November. The allegations were quickly scrubbed from her verified account on a leading Chinese social media platform, Weibo. She subsequently dropped out of public view for a while. That led to "where is Peng Shuai?" questions online and from players and fans outside of China, in part because the country has a history of disappearing people who run afoul of its leaders.

In her post, Peng wrote that Zhang Gaoli, a former vice premier and member of the ruling Chinese Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, had forced her to have sex despite repeated refusals. Her post also said they had sex once seven years ago, and that she developed romantic feelings for him after that.

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## WORLD & NATION

### NEWS BRIEFING

## PM Johnson reboots office in push to move past party scandal

From news services

LONDON — Boris Johnson has brought in new senior staffers as he tries to restore his flagging authority — including a communications chief who insisted the British prime minister is “not a total clown.”

The prime minister hired Guto Harri, an aide from his days as London mayor who has recently been critical of Johnson, to try to regain control of the government’s messaging after weeks of turmoil that have led some in the ruling Conservatives to call for his removal.

He also appointed a senior Cabinet minister, Steve Barclay, as his new chief of staff.

But unease about Johnson’s leadership grew Monday when opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer was harassed outside Parliament by anti-lockdown protesters who accused him of protecting pedophiles when he was a prosecutor — echoing a slur made by Johnson last week.

Visiting a hospital cancer center Monday outside London, Johnson said he was “focused completely” on clearing a backlog of millions of medical procedures built up during the pandemic.

It’s one of a pile of critical issues, including a squeeze on household finances from inflation and a looming tax hike, that are being overshadowed by scandal over lockdown-breaching government parties.

“I think what people want is for the government to focus, not on stuff going on at (the government district of) Westminster, but to focus on life ... beyond Westminster, and to focus on the needs of the country,” Johnson said. “And that is what we’re doing.”

Johnson’s grip on power has been shaken by public anger over revelations that his staff held “bring your own booze” office parties, birthday celebrations and “wine time Fridays” in 2020 and 2021 while millions in Britain were barred from meeting with friends and family because of his government’s COVID-19 restrictions.

A total of 16 parties have been investigated by a senior civil servant, Sue Gray, with a dozen of them also under investigation by the Metropolitan Police.

**NJ to lift mask mandate:** New Jersey’s governor announced plans Monday to lift the statewide mask requirement in schools a month from now because of the rapid easing of COVID-19’s omicron surge, calling the move “a huge step back to normalcy for our kids.”

Individual school districts will be free to continue requiring masks after the state mandate ends March 7, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy said.

New Jersey is one of a dozen states with mask mandates in schools, according to the nonpartisan National Academy for State Health Policy. New Jersey’s has been in place since classes resumed in person in September 2020.

The state’s decision comes as omicron wanes across the country.

Also on Monday, Delaware Gov. John Carney said his state’s school mask mandate will stay in effect until March 31.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said she is reviewing the numbers and did not announce any change in the state’s requirement.

**Michigan abduction plot:** A man charged in an alleged plot to kidnap Michigan



**The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery:** Gun salutes ring out Monday in London to mark the official start of Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee. She became queen after the death of her father, King George VI, from lung cancer on Feb. 6, 1952. The monarch doesn’t celebrate that day, known as Ascension Day, as it is also the anniversary of her father’s death. ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has agreed to plead guilty, according to documents filed Monday, giving prosecutors another insider who could be a key witness at a March trial.

Kaleb Franks said he would join Ty Garbin as the second person to admit guilt in a scheme to snatch the Democratic governor before FBI agents arrested them in October 2020.

The decision leaves four other men to face trial.

The government said the group wanted to kidnap Whitmer because of disgust over her COVID-19 restrictions.

Franks signed a document agreeing to plead guilty as charged, admitting he “was not entrapped or induced to commit any crimes” by undercover agents or informants.

Garbin pleaded guilty in 2021 and was sentenced to slightly more than six years in prison.

Franks will appear in court Wednesday.

**First lady frustrated:** Jill Biden went public Monday with her frustration over a political process that she says treats legislation like a football to “pass or pivot” while real people, such as her community college students, wait for assistance that would help them build better futures.

“Governing isn’t a game. There are no teams to root for or against, just people, Americans from all walks of life who need help and hope,” the first lady told a meeting of advocates for community colleges in a message that also seemed directed at members of Congress.

She was talking about a proposal to make community colleges tuition free, promised during the 2020 presidential campaign but now dropped from a much larger social welfare and climate bill that was a core domestic priority for her husband, President Joe Biden.

Jill Biden told the Asso-

ciation of Community College Trustees national legislative summit that the president will continue to push Congress to adopt the proposal.

**Moroccan funeral:** Morocco on Monday buried 5-year-old Rayan, a boy who was trapped in a well for five days while rescuers struggled to reach him. The strenuous operation drew global attention, and mourners sent messages of condolences from around the world.

Rayan was pulled out Saturday from a 105-foot deep dry well.

**Israeli spyware:** The Israeli government said Monday that it would investigate claims that Israeli police had used spyware created by companies including the NSO Group, a surveillance firm that has drawn global criticism, against its citizens without court order.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said the deputy

attorney general was “looking quickly into” the claims, while the public security minister, Omer Barlev, said he would begin an official state inquiry.

The efforts reflect Israel’s most significant interventions in the NSO controversy since the Israeli firm began attracting global scrutiny nearly six years ago.

The allegations have caused a brief delay in the corruption trial of Benjamin Netanyahu, Bennett’s predecessor, amid claims that police illegally hacked the phone of a key trial witness. Netanyahu’s allies have called for the trial to be scrapped.

The moves reflected the rising concerns about the use of NSO products within Israel, where the company — blacklisted in the United States and long a target of criticism outside Israel — was for years spared significant domestic scrutiny because it was not widely seen as a threat to Israeli citizens.



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# BUSINESS

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## Biden moves to promote membership in unions

Nearly 70 proposals meant to aid federal workers, employees of contractors

By Noam Scheiber

The New York Times

The White House on Monday released a report outlining several dozen steps it intends to take to promote union membership and collective bargaining among both public and private sector employees.

The report is the product of a task force that President Joe Biden created through an executive order in April. A White House statement said the president had accepted the task force's nearly 70 recommendations.

Many of the steps would make it easier for federal workers and employees of contractors to unionize, including ensuring that union organizers have access to employees on federal property, which does not always happen today.

The report also recommends creating preferences in federal grant and loan programs for employers who have strong labor standards, preventing employers from spending federal contract money on anti-union campaigns and making employ-

ees aware of their organizing rights.

When the task force was created, some White House officials indicated that they supported considering labor union membership as a factor in awarding government contracts, but the task force recommendations generally did not emphasize this approach.

Under federal procurement law, the government generally cannot deny contracts to companies it deems hostile to labor unions.

But it may be able to consider a company's posture toward unions as a factor in certain narrow cases — for example, when labor strife resulting from an aggressive anti-union campaign could substantially delay the provision of some important good or service.

The executive order Biden signed creating the task force required it to submit recommendations within 180 days, at which point the president would review them.

One key premise of the task force was that the National Labor Relations Act, the

1935 law that protects federal labor rights, explicitly encourage collective bargaining, and yet, according to the Biden White House, no previous administration had explored ways that the executive branch could do so systematically.

The ambition of the task force appears to be twofold: to enact policies for federal agencies and contractors that encourage unionization and to model best practices for employers in the public and private sectors.

The president's task force will submit a second report describing progress on its recommendations and proposing additional ones in six months.

Many union officials and labor experts consider Biden to be among the most pro-labor presidents ever.

He moved quickly to oust appointees of former President Donald Trump viewed as unsympathetic to labor and to undo Trump-era rules that weakened protections for workers, and signed legislation that secured tens of billions of dollars to stabilize union pension plans.

## Frontier bids \$2.9B for Spirit Airlines

By Michelle Chapman

Associated Press

Frontier is offering to buy Spirit Airlines in a \$2.9 billion cash-and-stock deal that will create the nation's fifth-largest carrier.

The tie-up is valued at \$6.6 billion when accounting for the assumption of debt and other liabilities.

The companies said Monday that the transaction will provide more low-cost fares for more travelers to destinations in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean.

Frontier Group Holdings Inc. and Spirit Airlines Inc. also anticipate \$1 billion in annual consumer savings and are looking to expand flights with more than 350 aircraft on order.

"This transaction is centered around creating an aggressive ultra-low fare competitor to serve our guests even better, expand career opportunities for our team members and increase competitive pressure, resulting in more consumer-friendly fares for the flying public," Spirit CEO Ted Christie said in a prepared statement.

The carriers may be in for a close look from antitrust regulators. The Biden administration has signaled a tougher line against big corporate mergers. Yet airlines have suffered a devastating stretch during the pandemic despite assistance from the U.S., and are in a weakened position heading into 2022.

The two airlines reported fourth quarter financial results Monday and both lost money in the final three months of 2021, Spirit \$87.2 million and Frontier \$53 million. And like 2020, both companies lost money for the year.

Frontier and Spirit say the deal will mean thousands of new jobs. The companies foresee adding 10,000 jobs internally and anticipate thousands of additional jobs at suppliers and companies by 2026.

### BUSINESS BRIEFING

## Toshiba to split, sell Carrier stake

TOKYO — Embattled Japanese technology giant Toshiba plans to split into two companies, one focused on infrastructure and the other on devices, in its latest effort to placate unhappy shareholders.

As part of the proposed plan, Tokyo-based Toshiba Corp. intends to sell its joint venture stake in Toshiba Carrier Corp. to the U.S.-based Carrier Group, for about \$877 million.

Toshiba is also selling Toshiba Elevator and Building Systems Corp. and Toshiba Lighting & Technology Corp., the company announced Monday.

The proposal is still subject to shareholder and regulatory approval.

Toshiba scrapped its earlier proposal for a three-way split, which was not popular with some shareholders.

## Bank faces trial in drug-tied case

GENEVA — A Swiss criminal court opened a trial Monday on charges that Credit Suisse failed to do enough to stop money laundering linked to drug trafficking by a Bulgarian criminal organization, which employed a wrestler who once hauled millions in currency by car to Switzerland.

The case against the bank in federal criminal court centers on charges that it "did not take all necessary measures to halt the infraction of money laundering" by one of its employees, according to a summary from the court.

The bank has denied the charges.

The indictment wrapped up a yearslong investigation into allegations of wrongdoing that appears mostly to have taken place between 2004 and 2008.



Several issues have led to a global shortage of fresh flowers. Above, a Los Angeles flower wholesaler. JEFFREY ROBINS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Floral industry still withered

Supply chain issues, labor and weather woes are keeping the bloom off around the world

By Stephanie Cain

The New York Times

The photographs of trashed flowers still haunt florists. In 2020, when much of the world went into lockdown because of the pandemic, many flower farms' crops were discarded. Since no one knew what was going to happen, new crops were not planted as usual.

Now, because of pandemic-related supply chain challenges, labor shortages and poor weather conditions in major growing areas, there is a global shortage of fresh flowers, especially the kinds grown for events like weddings.

"It was never a problem before, but now everything is a problem," said Bob Conti, a partner at Ed Libby Events, a floral design company in Hackensack, New Jersey. "We'll find out there are no white flowers, or the specialty rose is just not available. There is no way to get it."

Conti has worked in the floral industry, with a focus on events, for 30 years and said

he has never seen such a scarcity of materials. Many florists across the country said they were seeing the same thing.

"Floral growers lost so much with all the wasted or unsold product from the worldwide shutdown in 2020 and were apprehensive on how much to plan for 2021 and beyond," said Rishi Patel, the CEO and chief creative officer at HMR Designs, an events producer in Chicago.

"What we are facing now is an abrupt halt in the entire floral world," Patel said.

It's hitting at the same time as a boom in weddings, for which many couples spend thousands of dollars on flowers. This year, there are some 2.5 million weddings expected to take place in the United States, according to the trade group the Wedding Report; as a result, Conti estimated that it could take until 2023 for business to function as it did before the pandemic.

Most flowers sold in the U.S. come from the Netherlands, Colombia, Ecuador and Kenya, all considered major growing areas. The vast majority of roses at weddings worldwide, for instance, are from Ecuador, and the Netherlands produces the most peonies. While there are flower farms in the U.S., they tend to specialize in rarer varieties because they cannot compete with volume

produced by growers in other areas of the world, or the lower prices they charge.

Flowers used at events are different from those sold at grocery stores or online retailers. So-called event flowers are bred to a higher quality, reaching peak bloom by the day of an event.

But after the shutdowns of 2020, not only did growers plant less, they also changed what they were planting, said Tracey Morris, a florist in Santa Barbara, California. Many farms that her company, Ella & Louie, works with switched from growing event flowers to the kinds sold at grocery stores because those were more profitable at the time, she said. Farms have since resumed planting event flowers, Morris said, but it's a slower process because they have to wait until what's growing is harvested, or rip those flowers out, to plant new ones.

Like so many other businesses, labor shortages and distribution delays have also affected the industry.

The challenges have also led to higher prices for both domestic and imported flowers. Conti said roses that used to cost \$1.50 per stem are now going for \$3 a stem or more. White flowers, the most requested color for weddings, have also risen in cost, according to Patel, from 25% to 50%.

## 33 Chinese companies red-flagged by US

By Eric Tucker

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is raising red flags about 33 Chinese companies whose legitimacy it cannot verify, imposing new restrictions on their ability to receive shipments from U.S. exporters and requiring extra diligence from American companies that want to do business with them.

The Commerce Department said Monday that it was adding the companies to what is known as the "Unverified List," a roster of businesses worldwide that are subjected to stricter export control because U.S. officials have been unable to do customary checks.

"The ability to verify the legitimacy and reliability of foreign parties receiving U.S. exports through the timely completion of end-use checks is a core principle of our export control system," Matthew Axelrod, the department's assistant secretary for export enforcement, said in a statement.

He said the addition of 33 parties in the People's Republic of China to the Unverified List "will assist U.S. exporters in conducting due diligence and assessing transaction risk, and signal to the PRC government the importance of their cooperation in scheduling end-use checks."

The announcement follows a speech last week from FBI Director Christopher Wray in which he said the bureau was opening investigations related to Chinese intelligence

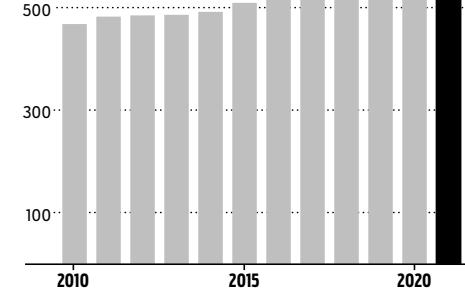
operations about every 12 hours and warned that there was "no country that presents a broader threat to our ideas, innovation and economic security than China."

China has repeatedly rejected accusations from the U.S. government, saying Washington has made groundless attacks and malicious smears.

The Commerce Department conducts checks of some foreign companies, or "end-users," that receive shipments from inside the U.S. to ensure that the companies exist and are legitimate businesses and that the products are being used for the stated purposes. That's especially a concern in China, where products seemingly meant for commercial use wind up diverted for military purposes.

### Airline employment

Employment at U.S. passenger airlines, scale in thousands of full-time equivalent jobs in December of each year



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics TNS

## BUSINESS



President Biden visits a General Motors electric vehicle assembly plant in Detroit. Fans of the Tesla brand and Elon Musk say the president is unfairly snubbing them. **EVAN VUCCI/AP 2021**

## Tesla loyalists tell Biden not to ignore brand in EV push

By Tom Krisher

Associated Press

DETROIT — Some of Tesla's loyal band of devotees and CEO Elon Musk say the White House has been unfairly snubbing America's top-selling electric vehicle brand in its support for EVs as a way to fight climate change — and they're making their discontent known.

More than 55,000 people have signed a petition on change.org, asking President Joe Biden to acknowledge Tesla's electric vehicle leadership. The petitioners have accused the president of ignoring Tesla, a non-union company, in favor of the traditional Detroit automakers, which are unionized.

Musk and Tesla's loyalists have been expressing such complaints since Biden took office last year. But the new petition is their first large-scale public effort to press their argument that the company and its devotion to clean energy vehicles are being overlooked by the government. The president has largely avoided mention of Tesla and often celebrates

the notion that "good-paying union jobs" would be created if the United States can lead the world in the manufacture of electric vehicles.

"This is an insult to the Americans who work for Tesla," the Tesla petition says. It calls on Biden "to do the right thing and acknowledge Tesla for its hard work in making EVs a possibility for Americans."

The president has visited Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Co. factories, met with their CEOs and praised them for taking a lead in electric vehicle development. In addition, he has driven new battery-powered vehicles from GM, Ford and Stellantis NV (formerly Fiat Chrysler).

But last month, when Biden met with CEOs, including leaders of Ford and GM, Musk was absent.

The administration's perceived neglect has irked some in Musk's huge Twitter fan base of over 72 million followers, as well as Musk himself. "For reasons unknown," Musk tweeted recently, referring to the president, "@potus is unable to say the word

"Tesla."

Biden has often touted union jobs that he says would be created by his stalled "Build Back Better" legislation.

Biden and congressional Democrats have pushed tax credits to give U.S. automakers with union employees the inside track on EV sales. The "Build Back Better" package included a proposed \$7,500 tax credit for consumers who buy electric vehicles through 2026. The following year, only purchases of U.S.-made electric vehicles would qualify for the credit. The base credit would rise by \$4,500 for a vehicle made at a U.S. factory that operates under a union-negotiated bargaining agreement.

It's not clear what the pay is for Tesla's production workers at non-unionized factories in California, Nevada and Texas.

One California worker who asked not to be identified for fear of retaliation said he earns \$24 an hour after working more than six years. Full-time production workers represented by the UAW make about \$32 an hour after four years or less.

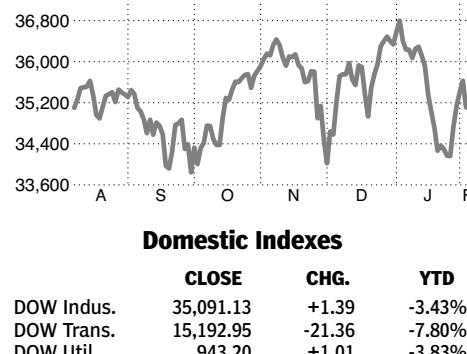
## MARKET RUNDOWN

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

**DOW**  
35,091.13 +1.39

**10-YR T-BOND**  
1.91% -.02

**GOLD**  
\$1,820.60 +14.00



Domestic Indexes			
CLOSE	CHG.	YTD	
DOW Indus.	35,091.13	+1.39	-3.43%
DOW Trans.	15,192.95	-21.36	-7.80%
DOW Util.	943.20	+1.01	-3.83%
NYSE Comp.	16,722.76	+21.17	-2.57%
Nasdaq Comp.	14,015.67	-82.34	-10.41%
S&P 500	4,483.87	-16.66	-5.92%
S&P 400	2,622.81	-.37	-7.71%
Wilshire 5000	45,135.77	-108.52	-6.86%
Russell 2000	2,012.60	+10.24	-10.36%

### Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	14.91	-.44	-45.2	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	300.95	-.49	-10.5
AT&T Inc (T)	23.93	-.15	-2.7	Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	21.95	+.10	+5.8
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	123.67	+.07	-14.1	Novartis AG (NVS)	87.21	+.93	-.3
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.28	+.83	-3.8	Nuvecia Pharma Inc (NVCT)	7.95	+.40	+144.6
Amphenol Corp (APH)	77.97	-.79	-10.9	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	247.28	+.09	-15.9
Apple Inc (AAPL)	171.66	-.73	-3.3	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	81.66	-.78	-6.2
Astra Space Inc A (ASTR)	4.60	-.73	-33.6	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.98	+.04	-28.7
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.60	+.10	-8.6	PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	121.41	-.46	-35.6
Bakkt Holdings Inc (BKKT)	5.80	+.47	-31.8	Peloton Interactive (PTON)	29.75	+.51	-16.8
Bank of America (BAC)	48.51	+.23	+9.0	Peoples Utd Fnc (PBCT)	20.59	...	+15.5
Barnes Group (B)	44.48	-.13	-4.5	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	53.21	+.21	-9.9
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2483.05	+.40.12	+3.5	Pinterest Inc (PINS)	26.46	-.79	-27.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	66.19	+.20	+6.2	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.81	+.03	-27.5
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	109.41	+.92	+6.1	Pruential Fnc (PRU)	119.27	+.93	+10.2
Carnival Corp (CCL)	21.52	+.15	+7.0	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	66.79	+.15	+.1
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	45.72	-.12	-15.7	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	94.03	+.01	+9.3
Charter Communc (CHTR)	610.75	+.18.3	-6.3	Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	13.91	-.27	-21.7
Cigna Corp (CII)	224.48	+.31.1	-2.2	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.32	-.18	-.2
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	48.86	-.47	-2.9	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	79.77	-.57	-2.7
Coty Inc (COTY)	8.58	+.11	-18.3	Snap Inc A (SNAP)	37.88	-.03	-19.5
Digital World Acq A (DWAC)	83.88	-.57	+63.1	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	11.72	-.17	-25.9
Disney (DIS)	142.51	+.49	-8.0	Sphere 3D Corp (ANY)	2.83	-.20	-9.3
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.98	-.13	-43.3	Spirit Airlines (SAVE)	24.46	+.37	+16.5
Ethan Allen (ETD)	24.98	-.01	-5.0	Square Inc (SQ)	102.81	-.06	-36.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	88.49	+.75	-2.7	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	160.95	-.52	-14.7
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.84	+.04	-3.8	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.68	+.26	+1.6
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	82.39	+.98	+34.6	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.50	-.03	-13.0
Ford Motor (F)	17.89	-.07	-13.9	Terex Corp (TEX)	41.94	+.97	-4.6
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	4.37	+.09	-16.0	Travelers Cos (TRV)	171.33	-.57	+9.5
Gen Dynamics (GD)	212.12	-.17	+1.8	Twitter Inc (TWTR)	36.04	-.90	-16.6
Gen Electric (GE)	99.90	+.89	+5.7	Uber Technologies (UBER)	37.54	+.49	-10.5
Hartford Fv Sv (HIG)	70.23	-.29	+1.7	United Rentals (URI)	315.78	+.34	-5.0
Honeywell Intl (HON)	192.48	+.98	-7.7	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	483.70	+.53	-3.7
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.62	+.01	-1.9	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	260.79	-.81	-12.2
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.47	-.42	-11.2	Voya Financial (VOYA)	69.69	-.62	+5.1
Intel Corp (INTC)	48.18	+.17	-6.4	Webster Financial (WBS)	60.22	-.56	+7.8
Kalval Brads Innov (KAVL)	1.62	+.55	+117.4	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	57.33	+.01	+19.5
Kaman (KAMN)	39.54	+.10	-8.4	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1034.01	-.10.27	+2.0
Keycorp (KEY)	26.41	+.24	+14.2	World Shipping Ent (WWE)	52.58	+.87	+6.6
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	71.55	...	+4.8	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	63.58	-.06	-17.9
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	26.97	-.58	-29.1	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	21.70	-.34	-4.2
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	45.61	+.107	+1.6	Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	9.05	-.06	+41.4
Merck & Co (MRK)	77.58	-.98	+12.2				
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	224.91	-12.18	-33.1				
MetLife Inc (MET)	68.87	+.36	+10.2				

## Israeli bigwigs seeking big profits from legal marijuana

By Ilan Ben Zion

Associated Press

ASHKELON, Israel — Not long ago, Ehud Olmert was trying to lead Israel to a historic peace agreement.

These days, the former Israeli prime minister is pushing a different message: Legalize marijuana.

Olmert is among a group of former Israeli leaders and security chiefs who have found new careers in the country's tightly controlled medical cannabis industry. They hope to cash in on the local market and clear the way for the country's major marijuana producers to export.

"Everything will change dramatically overnight if there will be legalization," said Olmert, an adviser to the start-up Univo. In Israel alone, he said, "the market would be unlimited."

Israel is one of the world leaders in medical cannabis



Workers pack medical cannabis at Univo Pharmaceuticals in Ashkelon, Israel. More than 100,000 Israelis have permits to consume medical cannabis. **TSAFIR ABAYOV/AP**

entirety of Europe, according to Prohibition Partners, an industry analysis firm.

Despite the numerous Israeli companies producing medical marijuana, Israel imports more than half of its supply. Golan Bitton, chief executive of Univo, said much of the locally grown supply is low quality that does not meet the expectations of Israeli consumers.

"The Israeli consumer is very, very selective," said Bitton, a retired commando.

Univo is one of a few companies in Israel that has full vertical integration from farm to pharmacy. His company's facility is housed in a nondescript warehouse in the southern city of Ashkelon. The clean-rooms where buds are processed are heavy with resinous pungency.

Bitton said the facility is capable of testing, processing and packing up to 80 tons per year. But due to bureaucracy in the last year it only handled around 6 tons, some of it imported. Like other companies in Israel's cannabis industry, he said Univo is primed for



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**Helen Bennett**  
Executive Editor  
hbennett@courant.com

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UConn canceling SC game was costly for fans

As a Courant subscriber and dedicated UConn fan, I was upset to learn of the last-minute cancellation of the Jan. 27 UConn-South Carolina women's basketball game. I had purchased tickets via StubHub three months ahead, paying just under \$200 for a \$12 ticket, plus a non-refundable hotel room in Columbia. Despite StubHub's advertised policy of crediting payments for canceled events, they are trying to weasel out of their commitment by claiming it was simply an "opponent substitution." The day after the announcement, tickets my friends and I paid \$200 for were going for \$15.

I know there are hundreds of other UConn fans who do the same and were, likewise, cold-cocked by this irresponsible decision. I am disappointed in UConn team management and, of course, StubHub, of which I issue a warning to would-be customers: Buyer beware.

**Tom Egleston, Asheville, North Carolina**

### Upset with treatment by UConn, StubHub

We are still in shock at how callously fans have been treated by both UConn management and StubHub. My husband and I and three others bought tickets for the UConn-South Carolina women's basketball game. The game was arbitrarily canceled four days before it was to be played. It cost the five of us — and no doubt many other UConn fans planning to attend — hundreds of dollars.

The two tickets we purchased from StubHub cost \$378 and are now virtually worthless. StubHub refuses to refund our money even though it advertises that it provides a refund if an event is canceled. From our point-of-view, it was canceled. We fortunately were able to cancel our hotel room although one of our friends was not as fortunate. Shame on UConn for canceling a game at the last minute without regard for costs incurred by its fans. And shame on StubHub for not returning the money for a game that will not be played. Both reputations are tarnished.

**Leslie Walden, Atlanta**

### What is Gary Franks talking about?

While I could disagree with much of Gary Franks' op-ed ["The Woes of Joe Biden, caused by Biden"], his irresponsible comments on COVID deaths and Biden's handling of the pandemic deserves a reply. Yes, COVID deaths have risen under Biden, as he notes, but he adds that this shouldn't have been the case after the availability of the vaccines. Really? Is he not aware of the large number of people who have refused these vaccines and account for most of the deaths that are overwhelming hospitals and medical staff across the country? Not to mention the same group protesting wearing masks in public? The vaccines are safe and effective and have prevented millions of deaths, and Biden has done much to promote them, unlike Donald Trump.

Also, Franks' last comment about Americans not needing "free stuff" in the form of masks and test kits? He should donate his share to those who do appreciate them, namely most Americans.

**Helen Williams, West Hartford**

# OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION



New Britain High School students head for the school doors as the first day of classes began in September 2020. While it often makes sense for high school seniors and adults looking to change careers to attend a traditional two- or four-year college, others might want to consider attending a career school, writes Tim Larson of the Connecticut Office of Higher Education. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

#### OP-ED

## The educational sweet spot on a nontraditional path

**By Tim Larson**

A four-year college degree has long been proclaimed as the promise of higher lifetime earnings. But there are strong indications that many Americans are taking a different path and demonstrating that there are other ways to reach the same goals.

For much of 2021, workplaces across the country were hit by large numbers of resignations. An average of more than 4 million people a month left their jobs voluntarily in the last quarter of the year and the trend sees no sign of letting up. Their reasons for parting with the security of their regular paycheck vary. Some accepted better jobs, decided to start their own business, retired early, or simply took a break to reassess their life path.

In this environment, it makes sense that high school students are also rethinking their options and opportunities. Today's economy offers a plethora of career paths and many can be jumpstarted with nontraditional postsecondary education, including career schools.

Connecticut has nearly 100 such schools offering education, training and certifications in fields of study that can lead directly to a successful career.

In some cases, career schools have working relationships with large employers like Electric Boat and Stanley Black and Decker that use these schools as a direct pipeline to increase their workforce.

While it often makes sense for high school seniors and adults looking to change careers to attend a traditional two- or four-year college, others might want to consider attending a career school.

Often career schools offer qualifications in a shorter period of time, are usually less expensive and can more directly lead to a good paying job upon completion.

The pandemic exposed a significant shortage of skilled workers in fields like construction, transportation and logistics. The shortage soon resulted in employers offering more lucrative pay packages for qualified applicants that often include signing bonuses, guaranteed employment on completion of a program, improved benefits and assistance paying off student debt.

According to a recent report from the Bureau of Labor



Larson

Statistics, wages in many of the industries that draw their workers from career schools saw dramatic increases in 2021. For example, last year workers in the leisure and hospitality industry saw a 14.1% increase in wages. Other sectors, such as transportation and warehousing (5.6%), construction (4.6%), manufacturing (4.4%) and information (2.4%) also saw wage increases. These wage increases reflect an increasingly competitive trend among these occupations and make a career school education that much more advantageous.

Connecticut specifically, and New England more broadly, are known as home to many of the best institutions of higher learning in the nation. If our state is to preserve its place as a leader in the field of education, our offerings must include

programs that deliver options to all students based on their unique interests, talents and life goals.

In the coming years we anticipate a growing interest in career schools as an alternative to traditional two- and four-year college degree programs, with the pandemic being one reason.

The unpredictability of the last two years is leading many high school students, and midcareer adults, to take a second look at the alternatives for finding

fulfilling jobs that will support their desired lifestyle. Career schools and programs, like those we have in abundance in Connecticut, can serve as the educational sweet spot for those who wish to follow a path that is nontraditional and offers them a strong opportunity for personal growth.

The Connecticut Office of Higher Education has been working with high school counselors to make sure they understand the full breadth of postsecondary programs available to their students. From a regulatory perspective, our office provides oversight of the career schools, which includes requiring quality educational programs, investigating student complaints and, in certain situations, providing refunds when schools illegally close. Our goal is to ensure that graduating high school students, their families and adult learners can be confident these career schools and programs are well-managed and that faculty and staff at the schools are qualified experts. We want all Connecticut students, regardless of age or chosen educational path, to be successful lifelong learners.

*Tim Larson is the executive director of the Connecticut Office of Higher Education.*

#### OP-ED

## State should repeal the gender tax

**By Derek Slap**

With the 2022 legislative session about to begin, lawmakers and the governor are working on various proposals for tax relief. Property, sales and income taxes are being discussed and I believe the General Assembly should consider including another tax for reform — the gender tax.

This isn't a traditional tax levied by the government. Rather, it's an extra cost — based on gender — that's baked into the price of goods and services, such as dry cleaning, hair styling and tailoring. It costs women, on average, about \$1,500 each year.

According to the Congressional report "The Pink Tax: How Gender-Based Pricing Hurts Women's Buying Power," the problem is real and significant. "Examples of gender-based price disparities for goods and services have been documented throughout the economy," it says, adding "... the frequency with which female consumers find themselves paying higher prices for gender specific goods

and services effectively becomes a tax on being a woman."

This is especially unfair when you consider the gender wage gap. Women

make about 80

cents on the dollar compared to men for the same job, yet they also endure these higher prices. (The disparity in pay is even more for women of color.) We do not have to accept this status quo in which women are underpaid in the workplace and overcharged in the marketplace.

While federal law does not address retail-based gender discrimination, some states are stepping up. In 2020, New York outlawed gender-based pricing for goods and services. Years before, California enacted the Gender Tax Repeal Act, which pertains only to services. At least one local government — Miami Dade County — passed an ordinance protecting women

from gender price discrimination. National legislation has been proposed in Congress, but its chances of passage are slim. Progress, as it so often is, will be left to the states. In Connecticut, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is well-positioned to handle complaints and ensure compliance.

Critics will argue that businesses should be able to charge the maximum that consumers are willing to pay — even if that means price discrimination for certain groups of consumers. This assumes that women voluntarily agree to pay more than men when the reality is that women simply have no choice because the price is based on who they are, not their behavior.

Businesses in states that prohibit the gender tax still have discretion to set prices so they can cover costs and make a profit — they simply can't base the prices on gender. It's a simple change whose time has come. Consider that the COVID economy is difficult for so many people, but especially

women, who are disproportionately impacted by layoffs, evictions, child care challenges, and even inflation. As Nichole Bateman and Martha Ross write for the Brookings Institute, "COVID-19 is hard on women because the U.S. economy is hard on women, and this virus excels at taking existing tensions and ratcheting them up."

By repealing the gender tax, we'd also be building on our recent efforts to achieve a fairer economy and root out discrimination. Since 2018 the legislature has passed bills targeting the gender wage gap and age discrimination in the hiring process. Connecticut should continue its progress and finally eliminate the gender tax this year.

Our economy relies on a free and fair market but so often, as in this case, the market is anything but fair. This is a chance to make it a little bit more so for women.

*Derek Slap is a Democrat and state senator representing the 5th District.*

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**Love Etc.** Stories from the heart — your essays about emotional life in the 21st century.

**Why I...** In which you explain why you feel so strongly about something in Connecticut.

**First Person:** In which you explain a deeply private issue against the backdrop of social and economic forces.

**Living Here:** What is it really like to live in Connecticut?

We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren't heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to [oped@courant.com](mailto:oped@courant.com).

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## TAG SALES

## Tag Sales &amp; Flea Markets

**COLUMBIA**  
Estate sale - 2 Webster Ln, 10 am to 4 pm, Feb 12 & 13. Furniture, kitchenware, books, games, jazz drum set, Xmas, men's suits, winter/summer toys, windsurfer and surf board, power and hand tools, crib.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

## At Your Service



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Car Reviews  
Saturdays in  
MOTORING

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OSTRINSKY, CT. 860-643-5879



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rates. 860-228-2003

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OLD TOYS, MILITARY JEWELRY,  
ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENTS, CAMERAS,  
WATCHES, SIGNS, ART, SPORTS  
MEMORABILIA, OLD STUFF,  
ANTIQUES, GUITARS, AMPS, TUBE  
HI-FI, RECEIVERS, AUDIO, EQ,  
RADIOS, HAM, CB, SAXOPHONES &  
MANY OTHER OLD ITEMS!  
CALL 860-707-9350

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AT HOME  
Get Comfy.  
Every Friday.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

## Hartford

## LEGAL NOTICE

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT NOTICE OF FILING OF  
AUDIT Pursuant to the provisions of  
Section 7-394 of the General Statutes,  
notice is hereby given that the audit of the  
South Fire District for the fiscal year ending  
June 30, 2021, is on file at the South Fire  
District, 100 South Main Street, Middletown,  
CT and is available for public inspection on  
our website at [southfiredistrict.com](http://southfiredistrict.com).  
Deborah Klekowski, Chairwoman  
South Fire District Board of Fire  
Commissioners  
Dated: February 8, 2022  
Posted: February 11, 2022  
2/8/22 7144248

## Connecticut

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
REFUSE REMOVAL SERVICES  
FOR ALL  
HOUSING AUTHORITY DESIGNATED  
PROPERTIES

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY of the CITY OF  
NEW BRITAIN (Authority) will receive sealed  
bids, in TRIPPLICATE, for the collection of solid  
waste at all of the low and moderate income  
developments within the City of New Britain.  
Bids will be received until March 04, 2022  
at 2:00 PM at the office of the Authority, 16  
Armistice Street, New Britain, CT 06053, at  
which time they will be publicly opened and  
read aloud. There will be a pre-bid walk-thru on February  
18, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Authority's  
offices. To obtain a copy of the "Request for  
Proposal," please visit [www.nbhact.org](http://www.nbhact.org)  
procurement.  
2/8/2022 7145800

Steve Dale's  
PET WORLD

Sundays in Smarter Living



**ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF WANTED**  
Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Toys, Games,  
Silver Plated Items, Costume Jewelry,  
Pottery, Typewriters, Sewing Machines,  
Clocks, Tools, Xmas, Lanterns, Oil  
Lamps, Glassware, Knives, Hunting,  
Fishing, Books. 860-874-8396



**BUYING PRE1980** Toys, Model Kits,  
Comic Bks, Baseball Card Posters &  
Cards, Pennants, Political, Postcards,  
Beer, Bar, Soda, Oil & Gas Station  
Cans&Signs, License Plates, Jewelry,  
Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippo's, I  
check Bsmmt/Attic. 860-817-4350

## Announcements

## Lost/Found

**IMPOUND - #164**, Husky Mix, Male,  
White & Tan, Call Hartford PD 860-  
757-4000

Antiques/  
Classics

**PORSCHE 914 1974** - \$2200 Solid  
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-  
209-6629

## Auto / Truck Wanted

**CASH PAID**  
for any Toyota, other makes. Any  
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\*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

# pets

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## Dogs



**ANTOLIAN SHEPARD PUPPIES**  
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Please text (860)550-5461



**FOX RED LABS** 5 Fox Red and 1  
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\$2000 Call Pete (860)833-6593

**GERMAN SHEPHERD** AKC Pups  
ready now 978-249-3193 \$1200

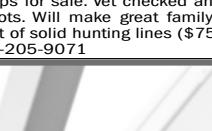


**FLAVOR**  
Every  
Thursday.

## Car Reviews

Saturdays in  
MOTORING

**BEAGLES** Male and female Beagle  
pups for sale. Vet checked and first  
shots. Will make great family dogs  
out of solid hunting lines (\$750).  
860-205-9071



## Connecticut

## NOTICE

Development Coordinator for Parkville  
Neighborhood Projects  
Hartford, Connecticut

The Capital Region Development Authority  
("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the  
State of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified  
contractor to serve as a development project  
coordinator for the Parkville Neighborhood.  
Please see full position and submission  
requirements at <https://ordct.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/1.27.2022.DevelopmentCoordinator-ParkvilleProjects.pdf>  
1/28 - 2/13/2022 7138105

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal  
Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police  
Department is in possession of unclaimed  
found property for which the owner cannot  
be located.

If you believe that some of this property is  
yours, phone the HPPD Property Room at 860-  
757-4180 weekdays 7:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Be  
prepared to provide a detailed description of the  
property, the circumstances of its loss, and  
proof of ownership as necessary.

Positive identification is required before property  
will be released. If not claimed, items may be sold  
at public auction, destroyed, donated, or released to a finder.

1/43/2022 712251

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Cedar Hill Cemetery Association and Cedar  
Hill Cemetery Foundation will hold their  
Annual Meetings on Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
at 4:00 pm for the purpose of receiving  
reports, electing directors and auditors,  
and considering any other business proper  
to come before said meeting. The meeting  
will take place virtually via Zoom meetings.  
For more information on the meeting,  
contact Cedar Hill Cemetery's office at  
860-956-3311.

William MacDonnell  
President  
2/4, 2/8/2022 7140571

## Car Reviews

Saturdays in  
MOTORING

Steve Dale's  
PET WORLD  
Sundays in Smarter Living



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**OBITUARIES BY TOWN**

**Avon** Ted A. Deloreto  
**Berlin** Barbara Selner  
**Bloomfield** Aaron J. Shumate  
 James W. Webb  
 Heidi A. York  
**Burlington** John Segar  
**Cromwell** Jayne Kurzel  
**East Hampton** Ted A. Deloreto  
**East Hartford** Frances Paquette  
**Enfield** James W. Webb  
**Hartford** Sebastiano Alderuccio  
 Antonia Bonatsakis  
 Michael Hatzikostas  
**Manchester** Kerry E. Buckland  
 Samuel D. Maneri  
 Aaron J. Shumate  
**New Britain** Kathleen Alekson  
 Jayne Kurzel  
 Barbara Selner

**No Additional Town** Floyd Smith  
**Other Towns in CT** Philip H. Carter  
 Betty A. Conklin  
 Arlene H. Dalpe  
**Out of State** Antonia Bonatsakis  
**Portland** Frances Paquette  
 Helen M. Sutkowski  
**Rocky Hill** Kathleen Alekson  
 Edward R. Muzzulin  
**Simsbury** Noel F. Moran  
**Southington** Michael Hatzikostas  
**Unionville** John Segar  
**West Hartford** Noel F. Moran  
**Wethersfield** Edward R. Muzzulin  
**Windsor** Heidi A. York  
**OUT OF STATE** Edward R. Muzzulin  
 Aurora, CO  
 Floyd Smith  
 Houlton, ME

\* Denotes name listing only.  
 Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

**OBITUARIES****Alekson, Kathleen**

Kathleen Alekson (Pack), 75, of Rocky Hill, passed away peacefully on February 3, 2022. She was the beloved wife of Richard J. Alekson for 46 years. Kathleen was born on November 18, 1946, in New Britain, the daughter of the late Edna and Adolph Pack. Kathleen worked for 13 years at Travelers, before becoming a stay-at-home mother. Kathleen's enjoyments in life were watching judge shows, meeting friends and family for coffee, shopping at the supermarket, watching Fox News and going to Burger King on Friday afternoons. Kathleen met the love of her life, Richard, in 1973 and they were married on September 20, 1975. Besides her husband of 46 years, Kathleen is survived by her two sons, Richard Alekson II of Rocky Hill, CT and Robert Alekson of Wethersfield, CT, her brother Robert Pack of Middletown, CT, and his wife, Rhonda and her sister Lorraine Morton and her husband Keith of East Berlin, CT. Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents. The family will receive family and friends on Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 10-11:30a.m. with a service at 11:30a.m. at the Brooklawn Funeral Home, 511 Brook St., Rocky Hill. For online guestbook please visit [www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com](http://www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com).

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Smith, Floyd**

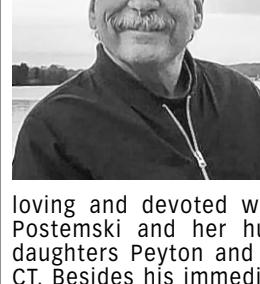
**Houlton** - Floyd Smith, 98, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather went home to be with the Lord January 25, 2022. Floyd was born December 25, 1923, at the family homestead in East Hodgdon, ME where he grew up working the family farm. He graduated from Ricker Classical Institute high school in 1942. Soon after graduation, he enlisted in the Army to represent his family and his country serving in WWII. In 1943, he was assigned to the European Theater as an armorer gunner in a B24 Bomber. He participated in many military missions including Rome-Arno, Normandy, Balkans, and the Air Offensive in Europe. He rose to the level of Staff Sergeant while receiving several decorations and citations for heroism and bravery. His B24 plane was shot down during a bombing mission over the oil fields of Romania. The plane was heavily damaged and forced to crash on the other side of the Black Sea. The entire crew was captured and taken as Prisoners Of War and imprisoned in Turkey. After approximately 2 months, he was rescued by the underground and returned to the US through Egypt. His mom was told he was "Missing In Action" but she never gave up hope that he was alive. One day while sitting on the front porch of her farmhouse, she saw a man off in the distance walking toward her home. She knew in an instant that it was Floyd returning from war. It has been told that she knew it was him by his 'gate'. After Floyd's return from WWII, he attended and graduated from Bob Jones University. After graduation, he moved to Hartford, CT where he started his career at Pratt & Whitney. He rose to Manager of Production Control and worked at several manufacturing companies that included Spaulding Corporation and Package Machinery Company where he finished his career, retiring at age 69. He married Sylvia Stinson Smith of Hartford, CT in June of 1953 and they lived happily together in Windsor, CT until her passing in 2002. They raised their two sons, William Richard, and Ronald Scott Smith. Floyd had a strong faith in Christ teaching Sunday School, leading Boys' Brigade and he also served in various leadership roles at Calvary Church in West Hartford and Emmanuel Baptist Church in Newington. He was a quiet humble man who was fastidious in all ways. He enjoyed his family, his yard & garden, musical instruments, the news, fishing, and hunting. UCONN Women's basketball and endless games of Rook. The way he lived his life proved to be an inspiration to so many. In 2004, at the age of 80, he remarried and is survived by his wife Louise London of New Limerick, ME. They very much enjoyed their 18 years of marriage living on Nickerson Lake just a few miles from the farm he was raised on. He is predeceased by his first wife Sylvia Stinson Smith; his parents, Miles, and Dora Smith; his sister Ruby Sjoberg; his brother Weldon Smith; his sister Evelyn Duff; and his twin sister, Flora Duff. He is survived by his wife Louise London, his son Bill, and his wife Tracey Smith of Houlton ME, and their three children Amanda Odom, Caitlin Smith, David Smith and 4 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his youngest son Ron and his wife Melinda Smith of Glastonbury CT and their triplet boys Zachary, Jacob and Ryan Smith. He is also survived by his stepdaughter Barber London. A funeral and celebration of life service is planned for Monday, May 16, 2022 at 11:00 am at Court Street Baptist Church, 46 Court Street, Houlton, ME. In addition, on Friday, June 3, 2022 at 11:00 am there will be a graveside service with full military honors at the Windsor Veterans Military Cemetery, 122 East Street Windsor CT. Memorial donations may be made to the Emmanuel Christian Academy, 296 New Britain Avenue, Newington, CT 06111. The family would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff of Madigan Estates for their attention and care given to Floyd over the past 3 years. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.bowersfuneral.com](http://www.bowersfuneral.com).

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**OBITUARIES****Segar, John**

Our beloved John has passed on to his reward. He was a devoted son, father, husband, and friend. He served in the United States Navy on the Tanker USS Severn during the Vietnam War era refueling other ships in their Armada. They participated in the Israeli Six Day war rescuing Americans. He is predeceased by his parents Edward and Vera Segar of Hartford. He retired from Aetna after thirty three years. He was known for his smile, wit, and caring influence, as well as being a hard worker. John leaves behind his beloved wife Linda (Gregson) Segar, sons; Timothy Scott Segar and partner Missy, Robert Segar and wife Nicole. He was respectful and friendly regardless of another's station in life, and he had a good rapport with people. He also enjoyed his grandchildren Samantha Norman, Luke Segar, Amanda Segar, Caela Segar, and Delaney Segar. Also Michael Segar and Briana Segar. John enjoyed many competitive tennis matches over the years with friend Arthur and also his own sons. Of course we'll never forget those "Road Kill Throw Down" picnics with friends and family and also many happy times at Clinton Beach escapades and Newfound Lake. As a child, he made many happy memories on his grandparent's farm growing up including peddling produce and throwing grapes with his cousins. His presence will be missed. Funeral services will be private at the request of the family. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association or other hospice organization of your choice. Arrangements are being handled by the Ahern Funeral Homes Inc. To send online condolences please visit [www.Ahernfuneralhome.com](http://www.Ahernfuneralhome.com)

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Carter, Philip H.**

Philip H. "Philly" Carter, 71, of Lebanon, passed away peacefully in the home he built, on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 surrounded by loved ones. He was born on May 28, 1950 in Hartford, CT to the late Bertha and Harry Carter of Columbia, CT (formerly of Manchester CT).

He is survived by Karen, his loving and devoted wife of 41 years, daughter Erin Postemski and her husband Jason and two granddaughters Peyton and Hailee Postemski of Columbia, CT. Besides his immediate family, Phil is also survived by his loving sister Martha Carter and her spouse Mary Roickle of Columbia, CT, niece Sarah Kern and husband Andy Black and their son Calvin of Cranston, RI, and mother-in-law Marianne Adams of Willimantic, CT. He is survived by his many siblings through marriage including Kenny Adams, Jacqueline Libano, Janice Krasnow, Paula Adams and Craig Adams, all who had the privilege of calling him brother. In addition, Phil was viewed as a brother to his extended family members and cousins Kathy Walker, Kristen Sheehan and Jim Horvath all formerly of Manchester, CT.

Phil enjoyed vacationing at the Rhode Island shoreline, deep sea fishing and surf casting and enjoying libations. He was an avid bird lover, phenomenal cook and made the best crème brûlée ever. He enjoyed woodworking as a hobby and tinkering around the house. Phil loved the outdoors, especially getting some Vitamin D. He loved his family deeply and was happiest when they were altogether. Always quick to smile and lend a hand, Phil's kindness to everyone will never be forgotten.

A Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic, followed by calling hours from 3:00pm- 5:00pm. The family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the love and support they have received for the past few years.

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Connecticut Chapter 200, Executive Blvd #4B Southington CT, 06489. For an online memorial guestbook please visit [www.potterfuneralhome.com](http://www.potterfuneralhome.com).

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Hatzikostas, Michael**

Michael Hatzikostas, 66, of Stonington, CT, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 7, 2022 with his family by his side after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on May 8, 1955 in the village of Gennadi in Rhodes, Greece, he was the son of the late Emanuel and Maria (Hadzigeorgiou) Hatzikostas. Mike was an entrepreneur at heart, starting Hatzikostas Egg & Cheese Co. and several other businesses in the food industry throughout his life, before moving to semi-retirement at Tinarose Produce in Hartford, CT. He loved to fish, play cards, and spend time with his grandchildren. Not long after his first grandchild was born, and she couldn't quite pronounce the Greek word for grandfather ("Papou"), he became affectionately known as "Boppee" to those closest to him. His grandchildren were the loves of his life, and he enjoyed watching them grow (constantly keeping them well-fed) and spoiling them on shopping adventures. Michael will be dearly missed by his son and daughter-in-law, Manny and Erin Hatzikostas of Marlborough, and his two grandchildren, Ella Maria and Michael "Mick". He is also survived by his brother, George Hatzikostas and sister-in-law, Terry of Rocky Hill, as well as his sister, Irene Vasilakis, of Middletown. He was also survived by his many nieces and nephews, Maria Taylor and her husband Billy of Cromwell, Sophia Figueroa and her husband Josh of Portland, Christi Lanouette and her husband Jay of Rocky Hill, Melitsa Vasilakis of Cromwell, Stephanie Hatzikostas of Oldsmar, FL and Manny Hatzikostas of Vernon; great nieces and nephews, Olivia and Georgiana Taylor, Jaxon and Jacob Figueroa, and Avery and Henry Lanouette. A special thank you to the doctors and nurses that cared for him throughout his battle. The funeral service will be on Thursday, February 10th, at 1:00 p.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 433 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. The family will receive relatives and friends from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th, at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. Donations in Mike's memory may be made to the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association @ [ahepa.org/donate](http://ahepa.org/donate). To share a memory of Mike with his family, please visit [www.desopofuneralchapel.com](http://www.desopofuneralchapel.com).

  
**D'Esopo**  
 Funeral Chapel

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

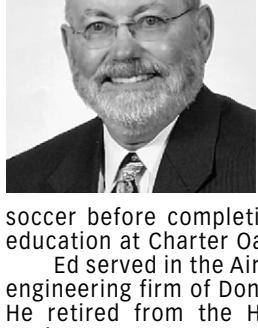
**Selner, Barbara**

Barbara Selner, 72, of New Britain, did Sunday at home. A longtime New Britain and Berlin resident, she worked Bourdon Forge in Middletown for 27 years, retiring in 2016. Surviving are two sons, Jeffrey and Robert Selner, both of Hanover Township, PA; a sister, Patricia Bourdon of Rocky Hill; and a brother, Rodney Houston of New Britain.

Calling hours are Thursday 5 to 6:45 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. A brief prayer service will follow. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com).

**CARLSON**  
 FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Muzzulin, Edward R.**

Edward R. Muzzulin, 77, formerly of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill CT, passed away at his home in Aurora, CO on Monday January 31, 2022. Ed always kept himself busy even from a young age where he attained Eagle Scout before graduation from Wethersfield HS. He then attended Indiana Institute of Technology where he played soccer before completing his Mechanical Engineering education at Charter Oak College.

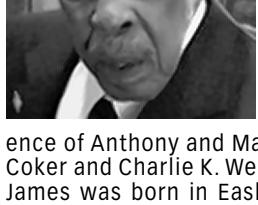
Ed served in the Air Force then went to work at the engineering firm of Donovan, Hammock and Erlandson. He retired from the Hartford Insurance Group as a Senior Property Manager where he was known as "Energy Ed" for his work to improve the energy efficiency of all of The Hartford properties.

In his spare time he volunteered for the Rocky Hill Ambulance and ASHRAE, serving terms as President for both. He was also on the St. Elizabeth Seton Church building committee, and Chairman of the Permanent Building Committee in Rocky Hill where he proudly worked on the Fire-Ambulance Complex, Cora J. Belden Library and the new Rocky Hill High School. Ed was known as KA1EXK and W4MUZ in the ham radio community. His passion for fast cars began as a young man with his Austin Healey Sprite convertible and later his 1985 1/2 Porsche 944, 1997 Boxster and 2014 Panamera. He enjoyed taking the Boxster to Limerock Racetrack for autocross with the CT Valley PCA where he also volunteered as photo editor for the Challenge magazine. Ed and his wife JoAnne traveled the US in the Boxster and achieved their goal of membership to the "All 50 States Club." They retired to Hertford NC where he served as a Perquimans County Commissioner from 2010-2019 and he also served as Commodore of the Osprey Yacht Club. We also cannot forget his love for the game of golf.

He leaves his wife of 30 years JoAnne Muzzulin of Aurora CO, his daughters Annmarie Shine of Elizabeth City NC, Mary Beth Muzzulin of North Haven CT and Karen Ann Muzzulin of Austin TX, the mother of his children, Constance Bruce, grandchildren Timothy, Jonathan and Nicole Shine of Elizabeth City and Hertford NC, a brother John R. Muzzulin, sisters Patricia Ramondetta, Pamela Baldini, Jane Holleran and many nieces and nephews, step children Andrew Murano and wife Maureen, and Amy Croteau and grandchildren Shellby Warner, and David, Mark and Hannah Murano. He was predeceased by his parents, Victor Guerin Muzzulin and Florence Lafo England, and older brother Guerin Victor "Gary" Muzzulin III. Visitation followed by Prayer Service Monday, February 7, 1 pm at Olinger Hampden Mortuary, 8600 East Hampden Ave., Denver.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Diabetes Assn., Parkinson's Association of the Rockies or Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Webb, James W.**

James William Webb, of Enfield, CT, was called home on Thursday February 3, 2022, following a short illness. He was the husband of 54 years to Ida M. Ledbetter, who predeceased him in 2017, father to son Anthony Webb, also of Enfield, CT, and daughter to Marcy Webb, of Bloomfield, CT. He passed away peacefully in the presence of Anthony and Marcy. James was the son of Ethel Coker and Charlie K. Webb of Easley, SC, both deceased. James was born in Easley, SC on September 21, 1932. He graduated from Simpson High School, also in Easley, in 1950, where he was a three-letter athlete in football, basketball and baseball. James served with the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War. James then relocated to Hartford, CT, where he was a semi-professional boxer. In 1962, he married Ida M. Ledbetter. He worked for The Underwood Typewriter Company before beginning his career with the CT Department of Corrections in 1968. He retired in 1989 as a shift commander at the rank of Lieutenant. In 1971, James and his family relocated to Enfield, CT, where he resided for the remainder of his life. James was a loyal and faithful member of Third Baptist Church of Suffield, CT from 1983 until his passing, where he served as Chairman of the Trustee Board. James was a caring person who loved his family and was always available to help his friends. He also loved his church and his church family. James devoted many hours of service throughout the years to his beloved Third Baptist Church. James had a special ability to relate easily to others and make them feel comfortable. James enjoyed life and was a lifelong fan of the Baltimore Orioles, the Cleveland Browns, and the New York Knicks. He enjoyed working in his yard, washing his cars, listening to jazz music and watching classic westerns on television.

In addition to his children, James leaves behind his nephew, Douglas Rutledge, of Williamston, SC, as well as several cousins. James' favorite charity was St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The family also acknowledges the efforts of the nurses and doctors at Hartford Hospital.

Calling hours are from 5-8 pm on Wednesday February 9th at Browne Memorial Chapels, 43 Shaker Road in Enfield, CT. The funeral service will take place at 12 noon on Thursday February 10th at Third Baptist Church, 188 Kent Avenue, Suffield, CT. The funeral service will be followed by interment at Hazardsville Cemetery. Attendees are asked to abide by CDC and the protocols of Browne Memorial Chapels and Third Baptist Church regarding temperature checks, hand sanitizing, mask wearing, social distancing and seating arrangements.

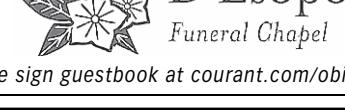
In lieu of flowers, please make donations in honor of James to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To leave an online condolence message for the family visit: [www.brownmemorialchapel.com](http://www.brownmemorialchapel.com).

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## OBITUARIES

**ALDERUCCIO, Sebastiano**

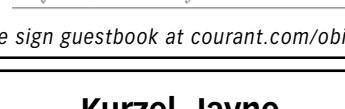
Sebastiano Alderuccio, 81, beloved son, brother and uncle, passed away peacefully on February 5, 2022 with his family by his side. Sebastiano was born November 19, 1940 in Florida, Sicily and was the son of the late Domenico and Angelina (Santostefano) Alderuccio. Sebastiano proudly served for two years in the Italian Army. A hard worker, he was in the construction field his entire life. He enjoyed being a member of the Millennium Italian Society. He especially loved to garden, Sebastiano could always be found tending to his vegetable garden and he loved to share what he grew with his family. Sebastiano will always be remembered as a kind and giving man. He truly loved everyone, and he was especially devoted to his family. Sebastiano will sadly be missed by his sisters, Lucia Greco and her husband Vincenzo and Cettina Scalora and her husband Carmelo along with his cherished nephews, nieces and many friends. The family will receive relatives and friends on Thursday, February 10th from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Burial will be at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Section 29, Hartford. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit [www.desopofuneralchapel.com](http://www.desopofuneralchapel.com).



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**Shumate, Aaron Jermaine**

Aaron Jermaine Shumate, Sr., 41, of Bloomfield, passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2022. Born in Hartford on September 11, 1980, son of Dale (Shumate) Manns of Bloomfield and the late Aaron Manns, he was raised in Manchester. After high school, Aaron worked in the check cashing business before starting his own landscaping business, A J. & Sons Lawn Care, LLC in Norwich. Besides his mother, he leaves to mourn his passing, two sons, Aaron Jermaine Shumate, Jr. of Windsor and Amari Malachi Shumate of Norwich; a sister, Kanieka Shumate of East Hartford; his maternal grandmother, Dorothy Shumate of Georgia; two nephews, Seth Antonetti, Jr. of East Hartford and Anthony Miller of Hartford; a great-nephew, Logan Antonetti of East Hartford; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends. His family will receive friends on Friday, February 11, 10-11 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 11 a.m., in the chapel of the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. For online condolences and to view the services live or after Friday, February 11th at 11 a.m., please visit, [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).



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**Kurzel, Jayne**

Jayne Kurzel, 72 years old, died peacefully in her sleep on January 30, 2022, at Middlesex Hospital after a very long and courageous fight with cancer. When Jayne was diagnosed with lung cancer nearly nine years ago, she was told she had only six months to live. Along with extensive treatment, her strength, a will to survive, and the loving care from her son, Jesse, she fought her way through it and defied the odds.

She was born in New Britain, Connecticut, on May 23, 1949, to parents Chester and Edna Kobus. Jayne was married in 1973 to Joseph William Kurzel, Jr., a Vietnam War Veteran, who passed away in March of 2003. In 1985, her son Jesse was born. She considered him one of the greatest blessings in her life.

Jayne saw beauty in the simple things in life. She enjoyed camping with family and friends as well as cross country road trips. She was a fond lover of animals since childhood, and like her dad, she donated to multiple animal charities and organizations until her later years. Her two cats, Gizmo and Fidgit gave her much comfort during her illness.

Jayne worked as a supervisor at Middlesex Mutual Assurance for several years and later worked as a Pharmacy technician until her retirement.

She is survived by her loving son, Jesse, a nephew and niece, Robert Kobus, Sheri Schwartz, her husband Adam Schwartz, and several caring friends. Family and friends are invited to attend the graveside service on February 12 from 10:00 am to 10:30 am at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, Connecticut. A springtime memorial will take place during the month of Jayne's birthday in May.

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**Maneri, Samuel D.**

Samuel David Maneri, 54, of Manchester, CT passed away at St. Francis Hospital on February 1, 2022 just short of his 55th birthday. Born in Poughkeepsie, NY to Samuel and Monica (née Joy) Maneri. He came to Connecticut in the 70s and attended schools in Manchester. Sam was the resident of two exceptional group homes: Wetherall House in Manchester and Wapping Wood House in Ellington. The family would like to thank the staff at both group homes and St. Francis Hospital for their years of warm and dedicated care in times of health and illness. Sam was known for his immense sense of humor, which was shaped by his love of Charlie Chaplin movies. He loved being home, surrounded by his family pets while eating a heaping portion of pasta. Sam was a big fan of wrestling, action movies, and action figures (especially Superman and Spiderman!) He was an active person who enjoyed attending Camp Kennedy, IOH and competing in track & field events of multiple Special Olympics. He contributed to his community through his work at MARC and several other organizations. He leaves behind his parents, brothers Chris and Jonathan, his aunt and godmother Linda Miller, sisters-in-law Jennifer and Jenna, his nieces Madison, Samantha and Veronica, and many cousins. He was predeceased by his great grandmother Tacinelli, Grandmother Lucy, and Grandfather Leo, all of whom were dear to him. Services will be private and at the convenience of family. A memorial service will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to MARC Inc. of Manchester or to a charity of your choice. To leave a condolence for the family please visit [www.machesterfh.com](http://www.machesterfh.com)

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**Buckland, Kerry E.**

Kerry Eileen Buckland, a devoted mother of 5 and lifelong resident of Manchester, CT died on February 3, 2022, after her battle with Covid-19 at the age of 48. She was born in Manchester on October 9, 1972 to Arthur and Barbara (Harbron) Bodin. She graduated Manchester High School in 1990 and was a beloved friend of many.

Kerry became a mother to her first child on March 9, 1993 and made it her mission to be an exceptional mother to her soon to be 5 children, and to all those in need around her. She did everything in her power to give them the best life possible, full of smiles and laughter, and succeeded in her mission.

Kerry loved spending time with her children, friends, and loved ones around her. She would often spend her free time relaxing and enjoying Lifetime Movie Network or playing cards with friends and loved ones. She loved cooking and was always finding new recipes to make for her friends and family. If you knew her you knew that whenever you were in her house you always had a full stomach. She always enjoyed the little things in life; she loved the beach in the summer and going out with her family whenever she could, even if it was just to get some quick breakfast.

Kerry is survived by her father Arthur Bodin, and his wife Linda; sister Melanie Bodin; children, Trevor Buckland, Leah Buckland, Benjamin Buckland, Maryjane Buckland, and Grace Buckland. As well as her granddaughter Lily Caro. She is predeceased by her mother Barbara Bodin. To those who didn't know her as Kerry or mom, she was known as GG (greatest grandma). She will be deeply missed by her family, friends and loved ones.

Calling hours will be held at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, CT, Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 from 5:00-8:00pm. A funeral will be held on Thursday, February 10th, 2022 at 11:00am. Burial will be private. To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit [www.holmeswatkins.com](http://www.holmeswatkins.com)

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**Moran, Noel Francis**

Noel Francis Moran died on February 3, 2022, in Ocala, FL surrounded by family. He was 85 years old. For anyone that knew him, he was that one-of-a-kind character who lit up a room with his quick wit and a joke (not all of them rated G). Noel was born in Brooklyn, NY to Francis X. Moran and Mary R. (Masse) Moran. He lost his father when he was just 4 years old,

and he credits his mother and aunts for giving him the love and support that made him who he was. Noel was proud to have graduated from St. Michaels Diocesan High School in Brooklyn in 1953. From there, he joined the US Navy at 17 where he honorably served aboard the USS Northampton C1C, at the time the most modern ship in the US Navy. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Noel went on to study accounting at St. John's University, as the story goes, he chose accounting because the line was shortest (ha ha). He graduated in 1960 and went on to practice accounting at Arthur Andersen, getting his CPA in 1964. He was one of the founding members of the Hartford Office of Arthur Andersen, the event that brought him to live in Connecticut where he met his wife of 53 years, Mary Ann (Forte) Moran.

After Arthur Andersen, Noel became the CFO of Caval Tool and Machine of Newington, CT from 1969 to 1989 when he "officially retired" (to which my Dad responded HAI, retired). He was a member of Hopmeadow Country Club of Simsbury, CT and Quail Creek Country Club of Naples, FL. He was an avid golfer and gin rummy player, notably a member of the "Bums" at Hopmeadow Country Club. Beyond golf and cards, Noel possessed a photographic memory which included an encyclopedic-level knowledge of the history of baseball, among many other things. He was an avid fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers and then New York Mets after the Dodgers skipped town for Los Angeles. He is survived by his two children, daughter Alicia A. (Moran) Hobson and her husband Byron Hobson of Florida (who lovingly cared for Noel and lived with him these last two years) and his son Francis X. Moran and wife Guadalupe (Cordoba Cano) Moran of Connecticut and his two granddaughters, Daniela and Valentina, all of whom he is forever proud. He is preceded in death by his wife Mary Ann in 2015 and sister, Jane P. Moran of Brooklyn, NY in 2020.

Open calling hours will be held from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday, February 10th, at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury, CT 06070. A Private Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Simsbury, CT on Friday, February 11th, at 11:00 AM, followed by a burial at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford where he will be laid to rest next to Mary Ann. Have no fear, we are going throw one rip roaring bash this spring to celebrate Noel's life, in May. Notifications of that event will go out in April.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Noel's name may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Please visit his Book of Memories at [www.vincentfuneralhome.com](http://www.vincentfuneralhome.com) for online tributes or to watch the Livestream of Mass.

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**Sutkowski, Helen M.**

Helen Marie (Russo) Sutkowski, 93, of Portland CT, wife of the late Alfred Sutkowski, passed into eternal life on Sunday February 6, 2022 with her family at her side. Daughter of Sebastian & Sebastiana Russo, Helen was born on May 9, 1928, and was the youngest of 9 children.

A woman of unwavering Catholic faith, Helen was a life-long communicant of St. Mary Church, Portland, and member of the St. Mary's Ladies Guild and Middletown Emblem Club No. 452. Helen worked for many years in the floral trade, including Jim's Flower Shop that was owned by her older brother, Jim, and other local floral shops. Helen was an avid reader of at least 3 books per week. Helen's family would like to extend their gratitude to the Portland Public Library, who kept Helen well furnished with all the latest novels. In addition to reading, she enjoyed a competitive round of bingo. A sports enthusiast, Helen followed the UCONN Women & Men Basketball teams, the Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics, the New York Giants and race car driver Joey Logano. Helen was well known for her tasty desserts and special dishes. Helen is survived by her loving and devoted daughter Laura, beloved nephew Noel Greaves and his wife June, 4 God Children John DeGostin, Susan Pusz, May Beth DelBalzo and Stephen Ledoux, as well many nieces and nephews and friends. Helen also leaves behind her closest friend, Elaine Fazzino.

In addition to her parents, Helen is predeceased by her 3 brothers and 5 sisters, James, Salvatore (Trixie), Joseph Russo, Minnie Lapidula, Sant Spada, Connie DeGostin, Lena Inferrera, Betty Greaves and Godson Richard Greaves.

The family would like thank the nursing staff of Middlesex Hospital Comfort Care Unit for their compassionate and respective care in Helen's final days. The funeral will be held on Friday (February 11) at 9:00 am from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home at 231 Main Street Portland followed by a Mass of Christian burial in Saint Mary's church at 10:00 am. Burial will be in the family plot in Saint Mary's Cemetery Portland. Friends may call the funeral home on Thursday (February 10) from 4-6 pm. Memorial donations can be made to St. Mary Church, Portland, CT or the Portland Public Library.

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**Bonatsakis, Antonia (Mavrakis)**

Antonia Bonatsakis, 96, passed away peacefully on February 2nd, 2022. Antonia was born on May 22, 1925 on the island of Leros, Greece to Anthony and Rosa Mavrakis who raised her along with her five siblings Anastasi, Nicholas, Foti, Calliope and Patra, who predeceased her.

From an early age Antonia had a talent for fixing what was broken and in need of care, her passion and skill led her to a profession in nursing and midwifery where in her early twenties she fortuitously met a young handsome patient, a police officer stationed in Leros who had suffered a ruptured appendix. The patient, Spero Bonatsakis, immediately stole her heart and they were soon married, a marriage that would last 73 years.

Immigrating to the United States through New York, November 2nd 1955 on the U.S.S. Olympia, Antonia put her relentless determination and boundless energy towards building a new life in a new country where her father-in-law, Emmanuel Bonatsakis, had arrived in 1912. She and Spero settled in Connecticut where they raised their three daughters, Sterie, Rose and Maria. They worked in factories prior to opening their own business, Spiros Pizza in 1966 on Farmington Avenue in Hartford. The restaurant was a quick success, soon becoming a regular hangout for Aetna employees and neighborhood regulars and was known as having the best pizza in town.

After 26 years of hard work, Antonia and Spiro made their return to the beautiful island of Crete, where they built the home of their dreams and spent more than 40 years of blissful retirement, surrounded by the sea, many relatives and the company of friends and visitors.

Antonia took great pride in her home where there was always an open door, she was known for her gourmet cooking and baking skills and her determination for keeping her home impeccably clean and in showcase appearance. She was known to welcome in the tourists who passed by in awe of the pink two story marvel, invite in friends for coffee and one of her outstanding deserts and for hosting her children and grandchildren every year for months, giving them the most idyllic pastoral summers of their lives.

Those who were lucky enough to have met her never forgot her. Everything about her stood out, at nearly six feet tall she couldn't be missed but it was her limitless energy, incredible laugh, sharp sense of humor, masterful cooking, ability to restore anything that needed mending (there wasn't a stain that she couldn't remove, a tear she couldn't stitch), her impeccable style and most importantly her devotion and unconditional love for her family that made her truly remarkable.

She leaves behind Spero Bonatsakis her husband of 73 years, three daughters and son in laws Sterie and Dimitrios Pachis of Wethersfield, Rose and Peter Vouthoures of Rocky-hill, and Maria and Yianni Hajidimitriou of Greece, nine grandchildren Antonia and her husband Spiro of Vernon, Christina and her husband Vasili of New York, Joy and her husband Michael of Rocky Hill, Tory and his wife Stacy of Rhode Island, Angie and her husband Tom of Wethersfield, Ariana and her husband Eric of Wethersfield, Yannis and his wife Georgia of Greece, Antonia and her husband Michael of New York, and her husband Michael of Rocky Hill, Tory and his wife Stacy of Rhode Island, Angie and her husband Tom of Wethersfield, Ariana and her husband Eric of Wethersfield, Yannis and his wife Georgia of Greece, Antonia and her husband Michael of New York, and her husband Michael of Rocky Hill, Tory and his wife Stacy of Rhode Island, Angie and her husband Tom of Wethersfield, Ariana and her husband Eric of 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## OBITUARIES

## Conklin, Betty A.

Betty A. Conklin, 83, of Coventry, passed away, Wed, Jan. 26, 2022 at Windham Hospital. She was born May 4, 1938 to the late Robert and Ella (Jackson) Gordon. She was a member of St. Mary Church in Coventry and was on the church choir for years. She loved to play the piano and working in her flower gardens. She was a resident of Coventry for over 36 years and worked as a secretary for UCONN for 27 1/2 years. She is survived by her daughter, Diane Strong; her sons, Keith Conklin and Fred R. Conklin; her brother, Robert Gordon and sister, Sharon Jenks. Betty is survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Services are private at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions can be made to Our Lady Queen of Peace (St. Mary Parish) 1600 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. For online condolences please visit: [www.pierrasfuneralhome.com](http://www.pierrasfuneralhome.com)

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## DeLoreto, Ted A.



Ted A. DeLoreto Sr., 74, of Scotland, Ct., husband of Margaret S. Trovato, passed away on Friday, February 04, 2022. He was born in Hartford, Ct. to the late Louis A. and Doris (Martel) DeLoreto. Ted was a long time employee of Foxwoods Casino. Ted's love of heavy equipment and equipment operations was prevalent

throughout his life. He is survived by his dog Fanny, who he loved very much. His two sisters Sandra Bowe and Alice Ardenksi. His son Ted A. DeLoreto Jr and his companion Sherry Vailencourt. His daughter Nicole and her husband Joseph DeCatiff. His two step-sons Mark and Antonio Trovato of Rhode Island. Ted has four grand children Amber and Heather DeLoreto, Sophia and Thomas DeCatiff. He also has three great grand children. Services for Ted will be private.

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## Paquette, Frances (Lawrence)



Frances (Lawrence) Paquette, 90, of Portland, formerly of Wethersfield and East Hartford, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 5, 2022 with her daughters and eldest grandson, Christopher by her side. Frances was born in Boston, MA on May 3, 1931, daughter of the late Walter and Rose (McDonald) Lawrence. Frances moved to

Hartford with her family and graduated from Bulkeley High School. She worked at Mercer and Dunbar for several years, eventually moving into the head teller position at Connecticut National Bank. She loved roller skating, square dancing, singing, playing cards and Cards Against Humanity with her girls and granddaughter, Abby. She met the love of her life, Roger Paquette, on a blind date, and on April 21, 1951 they were married and settled in East Hartford to raise their four daughters. Fran and Rog loved to travel and enjoyed time with family and friends.

Frances was predeceased by her husband Roger; her sister Lorraine Barrieau; her brother Thomas Lawrence and her brother-in-law, Gerard Barrieau. She leaves to mourn her four daughters, Denise Kiah of Concord NC, Barbara (Robert) Gordon, of Concord, NC, Alison (Chris) Petersen of South Windsor and Jerilyn (Richard) Sweet of Portland. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, Christopher (Heather) Gordon of Wyoming DE, Matthew (Caitlin) Gordon of Lexington SC, Scott Gordon of Wyoming DE, Steven Petersen of Manchester, Kyra Petersen of Windsor, and Abigail and Evan Sweet of Portland, as well as four great-grandchildren. In addition, she is survived by her nephew, Gerard Paul Barrieau (Joan), who was very special to her, as well as her nieces, Cindy, Kelly and Heidi in Florida and her sister-in-law, Janet St John of Manchester. Fran will also be missed by several very close friends from the condo complex she resided in for 16 years, especially her sidekick and partner in crime, Maryellen Mozdzierz. Fran's family is forever grateful to Phyllis and Gary Smithwick for their friendship but most of all their care and compassion and for always being there for mom. Heartfelt appreciation for Linda Sweet for her selfless compassion, caring and dedication to Fran and her daughters during this difficult time - we couldn't have done it without you!!

The family will receive relatives and friends on Wednesday, February 9 from 4-7 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, February 10 at 10 a.m. at the Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations in Fran's memory may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105, Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St, Middletown, CT 06457, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002, or a charity of your choice. To share a memory of Fran with her family, please visit [www.desopofuneralchapel.com](http://www.desopofuneralchapel.com).



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## IN MEMORIAM

## In Loving Memory Of

JOSEPH T. MEUCCI

1/6/1939 - 2/8/1981

You will forever be in my heart Dad.

Love and miss you. Kim



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# Hartford Courant

# CONNECTICUT

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## Consumers struggling with home heating prices

Senators want to halt US exports of natural gas

By Stephen Singer  
Hartford Courant

A group of U.S. senators, including Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, is targeting natural gas exports as a culprit behind rising prices and asked the Biden administration to halt the shipments.

The 10 lawmakers — from New England, Michigan and Minnesota where their constituents are enduring a cold winter — asked

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to consider stopping natural gas exports.

Liquefied natural gas exports are reducing the surplus for the U.S. market, the senators said. And projections of "exponentially increased U.S. exports will cause real harm" to American families struggling to pay their home heating bills, the lawmakers said.

The senators include Democrats Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey of Massachusetts, Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Tina Smith of Minnesota, Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters of Michigan, Patrick

Leahy of Vermont and Independent Angus King of Maine.

Natural gas prices have jumped nearly 20% since 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, crimping the budgets of U.S. consumers. Rising energy prices also are a key component of inflation that's higher than at any time since 1982 and are an issue in this year's House and Senate elections.

The senators know they are wading into the crisis over Russia's threats against Ukraine. Russian leader Vladimir Putin is using his nation's gas supply as a weapon against European trading partners as he seeks to tamp down opposition to his military buildup on the border with Ukraine.

In their letter to Granholm they said they "understand there are geopolitical factors and global and regional markets to consider."

"This includes recent calls for U.S. exporters to provide additional volumes of natural gas to Europe amid increased threats of a Russian supply disruption," the senators said. "However, the administration must also consider the potential increase in cost to American families because of higher export volumes."

Mark Green of the American Petroleum Institute posted on the

industry group's website Monday that the lawmakers should instead support increased natural gas production and construction of natural gas pipelines, processing stations, power plants and other parts of the energy infrastructure.

"The senators' go-to solution is to go after U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas, especially troubling with the Russia-Ukraine situation and with energy supply challenges across Europe," he said.

Liquefied natural gas has been a growing market since 2016, said Mike Doyle, a senior equity analyst

*Turn to Prices, Page 3*



Snow-covered rides mean the offseason at Lake Compounce — but the park is recruiting summer job applicants. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

## Seasonal employers ramping up to hire summer workers

By Don Stacom  
Hartford Courant

With 1,000 seasonal workers to hire by late spring and a tough labor market, Lake Compounce is trying fresh incentives: higher hourly wages, and free season passes for friends and family.

"And there's a global shortage of lifeguards. We're starting new lifeguards at \$16 an hour — that's up — and we're paying for training. That's new," said Lynsey Waters, the park's communications director.

America's oldest continuously operating amusement park has started a summer hiring campaign, the latest sign that college and high school-age students should see plenty of available jobs.

Employers expect this to be the second summer in a row that amusement parks, minor league baseball teams, camps and municipal parks will be challenged to fill their staff rosters.

In Connecticut, some are cranking up their recruitment campaigns sooner than usual in hope of locking in candidates. East Hartford put out a notice Thursday seeking applicants for lifeguards, camp counselors and park workers.

"This is early for us. We're not usually doing this until March or April," Parks and Recreation Director Theodore Fravel said Friday. "We're all asking what will towns do this year — will they raise salaries to compete? What benefits can they offer?"

Hartford's Yard Goats sent an email blast emblazoned "We're hiring!" with an online application and details on its Feb. 19 job fair.

Just across the Massachusetts border, Six Flags New England will start posting summer jobs on Monday, and is heavily promoting its two-day hiring fair on Presidents Day weekend.

"New higher pay rates — many positions \$15 an hour," its website says.

The seasonal jobs aren't starting any earlier than in regular years, but employers are campaigning to get as many workers signed on now — sometimes with bonuses or other incentives.

The drive follows the hard lessons of last summer, when staff shortages plagued amusement parks, municipal pools and beaches across the country. Labor experts attribute the trend largely to the pandemic, but acknowledge that seasonal workers — much like full-timers in many industries — remained scarce long after restrictions were lifted.

The massive Cedar Point amusement park in Ohio was hit with widespread complaints on social media after kicking off its 2021 season understaffed, and ended up abruptly doubling its starting pay — from \$10 an hour to \$20 — to get more workers.

At Disneyland and numerous Six Flags locations, parkgoers last year reported seeing closed restaurants and shuttered rides.

*Turn to Workers, Page 2*

### CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

## Positive test rate drops below 5%

By Alex Puttermann  
Hartford Courant

Connecticut reported a COVID-19 test positivity rate of 4.8% Monday, marking its first day below 5% since November.

Coronavirus metrics across the Northeast continue to improve following a devastating omicron variant wave. On Monday, Connecticut's seven-day average of new cases reached its lowest level since early December, while hospitalizations hit their lowest point since mid-December.

While experts continue to urge caution as the omicron surge passes, some restrictions imposed in recent months have begun to ease.

Middlesex Health, for example, announced Monday they had loosened their visitation policy, allowing one visitor at a time. Previously, patients had been allowed only one visitor a day.

### Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut on Monday reported 2,138 new COVID-19 cases out of 44,789 tests since Friday, for a daily positivity rate of 4.77%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 6.4%, down from 23.6% in early January and the lowest it has been since mid-December.

Connecticut has averaged 1,268 daily cases over the past week, down from more than 10,000 at one point last month. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

Still, all eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

### Hospitalizations

As of Monday, Connecticut had

*Turn to COVID-19, Page 3*

## Connecticut's roads are deadlier than ever. Figuring out why is complicated.

By Katy Golvala and Dave Altamari  
CT Mirror

On March 23, 2020, Connecticut came to a standstill.

In an effort to control the devastating spread of COVID-19, Gov. Ned Lamont instructed all non-essential businesses to stop in-person operations and asked residents to "Stay Safe, Stay at Home."

As state after state issued lockdown orders, roads across the country emptied. Major highways were eerily deserted, and traffic fell to new lows.

But something else started to happen, too. Even though there were fewer cars on the road, more people were dying in car crashes. "We had the lockdown period where [the number of] people driving in our state plummeted, but we saw more people die on our roadways in 2020 than 2019, which made no sense," said

Garrett Eucalito, the deputy commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Transportation. In 2020, 301 people died in car crashes in Connecticut, according to data tracked by the DOT, a 21% increase over the previous year.

At the time, it was the most traffic fatalities the state had experienced in a single year since 2016. The trend stunned public health and traffic safety experts. Then,

*Turn to Roads, Page 2*



A three-car crash closes four lanes of westbound Interstate 84 just east of downtown Hartford. The pandemic has coincided with an increase in traffic fatalities in Connecticut. **PROVIDED BY CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

## Manchester Parkade developers are fighting town decision to pull plug

By Jesse Leavenworth  
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — The developers who were removed recently by Manchester officials from the planned revival of the Manchester Parkade say their deal with the town is not null and void as the town claims.

"The developer remains ready, willing and able to hold the initial closing as called for in the development agreement," the developer's attorney, David Shufrin, wrote in a letter to Assistant Town Attorney Tim O'Neil.

"It is our hope," Shufrin wrote on Jan. 25, "that the town feels the same way and will honor its commitments under the development agreement."

O'Neil replied in a letter dated Friday that Shufrin's letter was "replete with inaccuracies" and that the town's deal with

Manchester Parkade I, LLC had indeed expired.

Town officials announced last month that they had ended a relationship with developers who promised a \$190 million rebirth of the Broad Street side of the Manchester Parkade, saying the partners moved too slowly on the long-awaited, mixed-use project.

The end of the town's deal with Manchester Parkade I means the redevelopment agency returns to a clear slate for the town-owned land on Broad Street, officials said.

"Unfortunately, while we have worked together in good faith," Mayor Jay Moran said at the time, "the developer has struggled to move the project forward. We were hopeful we could work out a new agreement after the original development agreement expired, but it is now clear that the project

*Turn to Parkade, Page 3*

## CONNECTICUT

# Police: Search is on for intruder who hit woman, stabbed man

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

Police are trying to find the intruder who they say is responsible for a pre-dawn attack on a man and woman in a Newington motel during which the man was stabbed.

The attacker forced his way into the room at the Hi-View Motel,

2273 Berlin Turnpike, about 3 a.m. and threw something at the woman, police said. The object struck her in the head, giving her a head injury, police said.

He then repeatedly stabbed the man she was with before running away, according to police. Officers tried to track the intruder with help from a Middletown police dog but were not able to find him.

The injured man and woman were treated at the scene and taken to Hartford Hospital, police said.

Both victims know the suspect, said police, who described the attack as a possible case of domestic violence.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at [cdempsey@courant.com](mailto:cdempsey@courant.com).

# Bloomfield teen suffers apparent drug overdose at school, police say

By Jesse Leavenworth

Hartford Courant

A 16-year-old Bloomfield student suffered an apparent drug overdose Thursday, possibly from fentanyl-spiked marijuana, police said Monday.

The teen was given multiple doses of Narcan, the opioid overdose reversal medication, and taken to Connecticut Children's Medical Center, police said. The student was released from the hospital that afternoon, School Superintendent James Thompson Jr. said.

Police said they suspect the teen suffered an overdose of marijuana laced with fentanyl.

The state's scientific services division was among the first in the nation to confirm the presence of the powerful opioid in marijuana seized from the scene of an over-

dose in Plymouth in September, local and state officials said.

Fentanyl-laced pot became a topic of concern throughout the Northeast last year because it was purported to have caused other non-fatal overdoses because people thought they were using only marijuana.

However, after dozens of cases in 2021 in which fentanyl-laced marijuana was suspected, just one case which involved two non-fatal overdoses was confirmed to have marijuana contaminated with fentanyl, Department of Public Health Communications Director Christopher Boyle said Monday. In that case, the marijuana may have been unintentionally contaminated by the dealer, he said.

"Thus, in 2021, the prevalence of marijuana with fentanyl contamination was very low," Boyle said.

Brian Foley, aid to public safety commissioner James Rovella, said Monday that the pot the student used has been sent to the state lab for testing.

Bloomfield High School Principal Dan Moleti informed parents on Thursday that a medical emergency in the building prompted a shelter in place directive from 10:50 to 11:15 a.m. The purpose of the directive, Moleti wrote in a message to the school community, "was to ensure that medical personnel could efficiently and appropriately respond to the medical issue."

Bloomfield police said they are investigating the incident. They would not say whether the student was a boy or a girl or release any more information.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at [jleavenworth@courant.com](mailto:jleavenworth@courant.com)



Between now and mid-June, Lake Compounce is looking to hire hundreds of lifeguards and other seasonal staffers for the summer. DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT

## Workers

from Page 1

Some parks implemented rolling shutdowns, staffing some rides for part of the day — then shutting them down to switch the workers to other assignments.

Numerous New York state beaches stayed closed deep into the 2021 season, and some Long Island ones shut down early, all because of a lifeguard shortage. Several summer camps in Maine, New Hampshire and New Jersey imposed capacity restrictions because they couldn't hire enough counselors.

Closer to home, Torrington last June announced its municipal pool wouldn't open for the 2021 season because of the shortage, and several state beaches started the summer with "swim at your own risk" signs posted over empty lifeguard chairs.

So many seasonal employers are now pushing hard to get new applicants for jobs that don't start until May. And even more, they're trying to persuade last summer's workers to commit to coming back.

"We managed to hire 66 new workers last year, and we're hoping most of them will be back," said Fravel, whose five municipal pools and its camp

program require a seasonal workforce of more than 100.

"I think by April we'll have a better handle on how it's going to be this summer, but we're telling people now, 'If you want to work, come on in and get an interview.'

At Lake Compounce, the most timely need is 300 workers to be ready for opening day April 30. The park is recruiting cashiers, food workers, ride attendants, ticket clerks, guards and more. One of the new incentives this year is four season passes per employee.

But Winters said the lifeguard jobs shape up as the hardest to fill. The water park doesn't open until well into June, but Lake Compounce wants to get trainees signed up now. It pushed entry-level pay to \$3 over minimum wage this year, and is offering paid training.

Prospective lifeguards undergo a 10-day training that in the past was unpaid; applicants also paid a \$300 fee for the certification. But this year, the park is paying — and covering the fee, Winters said.

"Those jobs were hard to fill for a while, but now with the pandemic it's even tougher," she said. "And the paid training, that's for all jobs now — it's something we're highlighting because there are jobs out there where you're not paid for training."

## Roads

from Page 1

in 2021, the number of people that died in accidents continued to increase, with the latest estimate totaling 323 deaths.

"Those are [each] an individual who is not going home that night. That's a life, that's an entire family and community disrupted," said Eucalitto.

This isn't just happening in Connecticut. States all over the country are seeing the same pattern: Traffic fatalities increased in the wake of pandemic lockdowns, even though fewer cars were on the road.

The issue has caught the attention of the federal government. Just this week, the DOT's Federal Highway Administration announced an increase in funding focused on improving roadway safety, particularly for pedestrians and bikers.

But why the pandemic coincided with an increase in traffic deaths is still a mystery.

That's partly because determining the underlying cause of a crash is an imperfect science. Did it happen because, for example, the driver of the first car was using their cell phone or because the driver of the second car was speeding?

When an accident occurs, police officers try to recreate the crash and identify the major factors at play, which they then include in a report.

Teams at the state Department of Transportation and UConn's Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center cross-reference data from the police departments with data from death certificates and toxicology reports to get an even fuller picture of the accident.

Experts are still pulling together all these pieces for 2021 crashes, so they don't completely understand the underlying causes for the increase in fatal crashes since the start of the pandemic.

"We don't have a really perfect picture as to what's causing it," said Eucalitto. "We have some beliefs and assumptions."

## Reckless driving

One thing is for sure: People are driving faster.

"During the lockdown, as traffic dropped, people had more opportunities to go faster because there weren't more cars on the roadway. And what we're also seeing is that those speeds haven't decreased now that traffic has picked back up," said Eric Jackson, director of the Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center, which maintains the state's crash data repository.

"We can measure speed on the roadways, and we know there is an increase and a shift in the way people drive," he said. And the faster cars are going, the more likely it is that the crash will be fatal.

Impaired driving is also playing an increased role in fatal accidents. According to data from the Connecticut Crash Data Repository

tory, in 2020, 80 drivers killed in traffic accidents were under the influence of either drugs, alcohol or medication. That's more than a 33% increase over 2019 and nearly double the number of DUI-involved driver fatalities in 2015. This includes only cases in which the impaired driver was killed and does not account for cases in which an impaired driver causes the death of someone else.

The data for 2021 is still being processed, but Jackson expects it will show more DUI-involved crash deaths.

"I think if we start to dig deeper into impaired driving stats for 2021, we will see an increase in fatalities where drugs, alcohol, and the combination will be higher than in years past. Connecticut was already a leader in the nation for impaired fatalities," he said.

## How the pandemic affected drivers

Jackson believes that there is also a mental health response to the pandemic at play on roadways.

"The other part that I think is much harder to prove is that people are stressed out a lot more, they have a lot more that they have to deal with mentally," he said. "I think that carries over into the road."

Nick Maltby, a Farmington-based psychologist, said the increase in reckless driving could be partially explained by an increased threshold for risk as a result of the pandemic.

"When you're faced with something that can bring death, things that appeared risky before don't seem that risky anymore," Maltby said.

One area where Maltby has seen this play out is among soldiers returning home from war.

"Your sense of relative risk changes because you're aware that bad things can happen to you at any moment. One thing that teaches you is to live very 'present-focused,'" said Maltby.

That focus on the present can lead some people to make risky decisions in the moment, disregarding the impact those decisions may have in the future.

"It takes [people who return from some military service] a long time to plan successfully for the future again."

Studies have found that soldiers exposed to combat are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including alcohol abuse and reckless driving, upon their return home than they were pre-deployment.

And soldiers aren't the only ones who respond this way to traumatic, life-threatening experiences.

A 2014 study found that children who experience cumulative trauma are more likely to exhibit high risk behaviors in adolescence, including skipping school, running away from home and self-injury. Several studies have also shown increases in intergroup violence, alcohol and substance abuse, and suicidal behaviors among populations who survive natural disasters.

The pandemic might have had



Connecticut Sen. Cathy Osten asks questions at a hearing in 2021. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

a similar effect on individuals. For two years, people have dealt with the threat of a deadly virus that has changed life dramatically.

"It's so overarching that we all, whether you took it seriously or didn't take it as seriously, it was so prevalent in society that it made you present-focused," said Maltby.

For many of us, the pandemic may have triggered a focus on the present that has increased our risk threshold more broadly — reckless driving isn't the only risky behavior on the rise in the wake of COVID.

In 2020, the U.S. experienced a 30% surge in the murder rate, the sharpest increase in a century. Between April 2020 and April 2021, the number of Americans who died of a drug overdose — more than 100,000 people — increased by 29%. Firearm sales reached record highs in 2020, and, though sales declined slightly in 2021, they were still much higher than pre-pandemic levels. Even cigarette sales increased in 2020 — the first annual increase in sales in two decades.

## Less enforcement

Police are also giving out far fewer tickets.

Like the trend in traffic fatalities, this pattern began at the start of the pandemic, and the numbers of tickets issued have dropped. The overall number of infractions issued, as measured by the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project, dropped 60% from 2019 to 2020.

Similarly, according to the state Judicial Department, tickets that led to convictions dropped more than 60% between 2019 and 2020. The same severe drop was evident at both the state police and local departments.

Why are police giving out fewer tickets?

Part of it has to do with staffing. The state police, as well as local departments, have reported severe staffing shortages. Fewer officers means less enforcement.

Avon Police Chief James Rio said the department was lucky to hire four officers during the pandemic to bring them to full staff, but he said he knows other municipalities, like the state police, haven't been so lucky.

"If a smaller department loses one or two officers, that's significant, and that impacts what you can do," Rio said.

The state police have about 970 sworn members, an improvement over a few years ago when the number dipped below 900, but nowhere near staffing levels from 10 years or so ago when there were nearly 1,300 sworn members.

State Sen. Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, who serves as the co-chairwoman of the legislature's Public Safety Committee, said that even though the state has approved a number of classes of new troopers recently, the department is still catching up.

"So my sense is that part of the problem with state police staffing is that even though we've had a lot of classes put in over the last four years, they're not keeping up with the number of retirements that they've had. They're maybe going up a few but not enough to make a significant difference," Osten said.

"I think we'll probably have to have another two, maybe three, years of classes just to get where we need to be."

The way police interact with the public has also changed in the last two years.

State Rep. Greg Howard, a Republican from Stonington who has been a police officer in the town for 20 years, said he has no doubt there is a correlation between the decrease in tickets being issued and the number of police officers on the roads enforcing traffic laws.

But, Howard said, there are other factors at play that have caused officers to interact with the public less than they did before. He believes it is a combination of the pandemic, particularly at the beginning, the aftermath of the George Floyd case, and the police accountability bill that was passed in this state after Floyd's murder.

"In the spring of 2020, I think it was mostly we were not going to stop cars unless we really had to, because we just didn't know what we were dealing with at that point with the virus," Howard said.

Rio also said that, pre-pandemic, the Avon police department was focusing on traffic stops and enforcement because that's what residents were complaining about. But, once the pandemic hit, officers were told not to stop people unnecessarily.

By the time the first wave of the pandemic subsided and people started driving more, Floyd was murdered, setting off protests against the police all over the

country and cries to defund police departments.

"When it came time for officers to go back to their old routines, there was no incentive, because the rhetoric that swept the nation hurt morale," Howard said.

Howard said now there's "no fear of COVID anymore, but morale is still low" because the police accountability bill has officers concerned about how these new laws will be interpreted or applied.

"Nobody wanted to be the test case, so officers went out, did their calls or what they were ordered to do and no more, because they didn't want to end up in the newspaper or in front of internal affairs because a complaint had been filed against them," he said.

## What's the solution?

To address staffing, Osten has asked state officials to check whether the federal government has reinstated two grant programs that could help get more officers on the road — the rural roads grant program and a DUI program — that were stopped by the government in the past four or five years.

"It was very helpful when I was first elected to have these kinds of grants, because it allows us to get coverage on times of the day and weekend times when you normally might not have anybody there to do additional traffic enforcement," Osten said.

Osten envisions the grants going to small-town police departments or to state police resident troopers responsible for enforcement in smaller towns.

"Fatalities aren't just on the major highways, right?" Osten said, citing Route 32 that runs through Franklin and other small towns in eastern Connecticut as an example.

"We've had a number of fatal accidents on Route 32 in the area of Franklin, Lebanon, South Windham and up into Willimantic. That's one of the worst areas. They have had accident after accident. So that is something that I think that we have to pay attention to because it's not just happening on I-95 or I-91."

To reduce speed, Eucalitto said, the DOT is exploring engineering changes, such as rotaries, along with road improvements — including lighting, crosswalks, and curbs — which would also improve the roadway conditions for non-vehicle users. There's also a pilot program in place to understand whether speed cameras will help control speeding in work zones.

Eucalitto explained that the ultimate goal is zero fatalities on the state's roadways.

To that end, last year, the DOT launched the Vision Zero Council, the first statewide vision zero council in the country. It includes representatives from the departments of Motor Vehicles, Public Health, Criminal Justice, Education, the State Police, and the Office of Early Childhood. Over the next year, the Council will submit a proposal to the legislature outlining how to reduce the number of people dying on Connecticut's roadways.

## CONNECTICUT

### AVON

# Neighborhood petitions to block higher cell tower

By Don Stacom

Hartford Courant

Frustrated that Avon's government appears determined to steeply increase the height of a cellphone tower in their neighborhood, a band of homeowners this month is campaigning to block it with a petition drive.

Joe Zarb and Kristen Gibb are circulating petitions to overrule the town council's approval earlier this winter.

They estimate they need about 1,300 signatures and have only a week left to get them. In an online campaign, they're also calling on Avon residents to help circulate petitions.

"If you help us save the residential tranquility and beauty of Avon, it will be repaid with every day you enjoy our town," they said in a message to homeowners.

Their plan hinges on a section

of Avon's town charter that allows residents to petition to overrule decisions by the council.

Petitioners are given a narrow window of time to get signatures from 10% of eligible voters; if they succeed, the council decision is held in abeyance and the matter is decided by voters at a town meeting.

Gibb said Monday that she doesn't know how many signatures they've gotten yet because volunteer circulators are still gathering them. She and Zarb have set a Feb. 13 deadline to get approximately 1,400 signatures, and she noted that the charter requires witnesses for each signature — so people can't sign online.

"It's all has to be on paper," she said.

But they've set up a website where residents can sign up to sign: [tinyurl.com/bdzx4mmz](http://tinyurl.com/bdzx4mmz).

Gibb and Zarb hope to turn in

enough petitions to force a town meeting. If that happens, the charter indicates that a council decision will be overruled if it's voted down by 100 or more residents at the meeting.

Mike Galati, whose Berkshire Xing home is near the tower site, said opponents are concerned about more than just the visual impact of the surrounding neighborhood. He said Zarb and Gibb have proved that in the first days of petitioning.

"They have received tremendous feedback from many on the other side of town that had no idea this project was going on," Galati said.

At issue is the 146-foot-high cell tower that Avon and SBA Communications want to erect near Buckingham Park. It would replace SBA's current 100-foot tower, and town officials say it would improve public safety by reducing the radio

dead zones that police and firefighters encounter.

Some neighbors have been balking ever since the plan was put forward, though, and they've grown increasingly frustrated as it has successfully sailed through the municipal approval process.

They contend town government ignored alternate sites while dismissing neighbors' concerns about site lines, property values and health questions. They also argue that Avon has been too eager to accommodate private companies, including Verizon, which will share the town, over the wishes of nearby homeowners.

The town council has consistently disagreed, saying the plan puts the needs of the entire community first.

"We need to insist that the amendment with cell-tower operator SBA and Verizon does not bring harm to our children, increase the

town budget and resident taxes, place commercial eyesores and health hazards at our schools and residential neighborhoods, protect the character and natural beauty of the Farmington Valley river and walking trails, and maintain safe and worry-free public sports fields," reads the petition.

Town Manager Brandon Robertson told the council in January that the tower would be safe for neighbors and crucially important to emergency workers. He said the current system has too many dead zones where radio contact between firefighters, police and dispatchers is impossible. Robertson said if Avon's emergency radio system were a car, it would be rusted out and have four flat tires.

Robertson said Monday that public safety officials have thoroughly examined alternate sites and concluded the one near Buckingham Park is the best.

# JRego's opens in Ellington

New restaurant offers a fusion of international flavors

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

JRego's Gathering Place is the newest restaurant in Ellington, offering the flavors of Mexico, Greece, Italy, China, Brazil and the United States.

"It's an American bistro, but really fusion, with chilaquiles, flatbreads, sesame short ribs. And crepes, sweet-tooth crepes and dinner crepes," says co-owner Jessica Pierson-Regan said. "There's something for everybody."

Pierson-Regan, who has worked in events and marketing since the 1990s, co-owns the restaurant and bar with her husband Kevin Regan, who grew up helping with his father's catering business. From 2015 to 2021, he owned Hometown Pizza in Ellington.

JRego's, which opened Jan. 28, is in Meadowview Plaza, where Cold Creek Tavern used to be, a few doors down from Hometown.

"We've always opened our home to everyone. This is an extension of our home," Pierson-Regan said. "I wanted to create a gathering place, where people get together to enjoy memorable moments and good food."

Providing that food is chef Ricky Sharma of Madison, who also is chef at Turtle Café, a popular breakfast-brunch-lunch spot in Westbrook.

The menu begins with shareables, including mussels, calamari, chicken and waffles, wings, chilaquiles, a Brazilian steak appetizer, sesame ribs, meatballs, Brussels sprouts, sliders and a hummus-feta-pita plate. Flatbreads come in pesto-goat cheese-spinach; three-cheese; smoked salmon; and chicken-bacon-cheese. Paninis are Cuban, turkey and veggie. Entrées are New York strip steak, salmon, chicken, gnocchi and pappardelle.

Crepes — also a specialty at Turtle Café — come in four varieties: wild mushroom, chicken, spinach, asiago, with a lemon herb crème beurre blanc; chicken, chorizo, spinach and cheddar in a cilantro cream sauce; veggie



Crepes are the specialty of the house at JRego's Gathering Place in Ellington. COURTESY JESSICA PIERSON-REGAN

with feta; and Nutella-banana-apple-strawberry-whipped cream.

Burgers, salads and sides round out the menu, which also offers a variety of wines and beers.

The 3,000-square-foot space has seating for 94 people, at tables and at the bar. The atmosphere is both mellow — with soft lighting and music — and homey, with one wall covered with photos of Ellington.

JRego's is the third new restaurant to come to this small town in the last few months. Backroads Smokin' BBQ, which graduated from a food truck to a brick-and-mortar on Sandy Beach Road; and DiFiore's, an east-of-the-river outpost of the long-running Rocky Hill pasta-sandwich shop, both opened in 2021 to huge popular success.

JRego's Gathering Place is

at 175 West Road in Ellington. Hours are Monday to Wednesday 4 to 10 p.m., Thursday to Saturday 4 p.m. to midnight and Sunday 4 to 8 p.m. The restaurant will be open for lunch, too, when staffing is complete. For more information go to [jregosgatheringplace.com](http://jregosgatheringplace.com).

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## Prices

from Page 1

at Edward Jones. Prices in the U.S. are high, but they have soared in Europe, partly due to threats by Putin, he said.

"You can sell it for a lot more in Europe than in the U.S. right now," he said.

The U.S., once dependent on oil imports, is now the biggest exporter of natural gas.

Blumenthal said the U.S. should curtail its natural gas exports, but can still sell to trading partners such as Germany, which is dependent on gas imports from Russia.

His request for federal intervention is his second in recent months. He and others in November urged President Joe Biden to tap the strategic oil reserve to help push down gas prices that were then about \$3.50 a gallon in Connecticut. Biden agreed, and prices declined, but then rose again on global oil markets for reasons not unlike those now affecting natural gas: a cold winter and the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The average price at the pump is now \$3.44, according to AAA.

"History shows that increasing the supply of commodities like gasoline and natural gas lowers prices," Blumenthal said. "The laws of supply and demand do work in commodities markets. Not all the time."

Intervention last year had an effect "and I think the same would be true with natural gas," he said.

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A worker at a Ukrainian gas station Volovets in western Ukraine. Fears are rising about Europe's energy supply if Russia were to invade Ukraine and shut off its natural gas in retaliation for U.S. and European sanctions.

PAVLO PALAMARCHUK/AP

## Parkade

from Page 1

as envisioned was not progressing as we had hoped."

Developer Michael Licamele, however, repeated Monday that he and partner Harry Freeman are ready to move forward with a project that promised to become the town's third largest taxpayer within the next seven years.

"We would love to go forward as planned," Licamele said.

The town and Manchester Parkade I signed a development agreement in April 2021, which was subsequently twice extended, but lapsed prior to the developer securing the necessary financing to close on the property, town officials said. The recent changes in market conditions and slow project pace required town leaders to carefully consider options, according to a news release.

The town, however, failed to give the developers a formal notice of default, Shufrin wrote.

"Under the circumstances here," he wrote, "the passage of time has not rendered the development agreement 'null and void.'

O'Neil responded in his letter that the agreement had a clear deadline

"and the town repeatedly expressed to the developer the importance of closing and promptly commencing redevelopment of the Parkade."

O'Neil ended his letter by writing, "Given that the agreement is no longer in effect, the town reserves its rights to pursue any and all alternatives for development of the Parkade."

"We hope to be in position to start working with a new developer soon," town planning and economic development Director Gary Anderson said Monday, noting that the redevelopment agency is set to meet again on Feb. 17.

Voters approved an \$8 million bond issue in 2009 to redevelop the 148-acre Broad Street Redevelopment Area, which includes the approximately 23-acre development site. Since then, the town has purchased and demolished a blighted shopping plaza, bought and demolished former automotive businesses on the other side of Broad Street, completed a \$5 million reconstruction of Broad Street, and bought and torn down a vacant restaurant to open a connection between Center Springs Park and the redevelopment area.

In the summer of 2019, town leaders chose Licamele, owner of a

New Milford-based development company, and Freeman, a former economic development leader in Hartford and Windsor, as the site developers. On the recommendation of the redevelopment agency, the board of directors voted unanimously to enter into a memo of understanding with Manchester Parkade I, one of three groups that responded to the town's request for proposals.

The purchase price of the town-owned site, according to an agreement with the developers that the board of directors approved, was \$1.7 million.

Development of the estimated \$180-\$190 million development was to be done in phases. The first phase, estimated to cost \$80 million, included infrastructure for the entire site and four buildings — an apartment building with 180 units, a 26,000-square-foot office building, a mixed-use building with 12,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor and 24 apartments in two floors above and an 18,000-square-foot "ghost kitchen," a commercial kitchen that would be available for rent.

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## COVID-19

from Page 1

631 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down 154 from Friday and down from nearly 2,000 at one point in January.

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the state, 51.2% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

COVID-19 deaths — which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks — have begun to dip recently after increasing in December and January. Unvaccinated

people in Connecticut have been about 15 times as likely to die from COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The United States has now recorded 903,730 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

## Vaccinations

As of Monday, 93% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 76.9% of all residents and 81.1% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 51.8% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

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# LIVING

WWW.COURANT.COM/FEATURES

## People keep crying during Joachim Trier's film

Director calls it sign audiences are embracing 'Worst Person in World'

By Jake Coyle

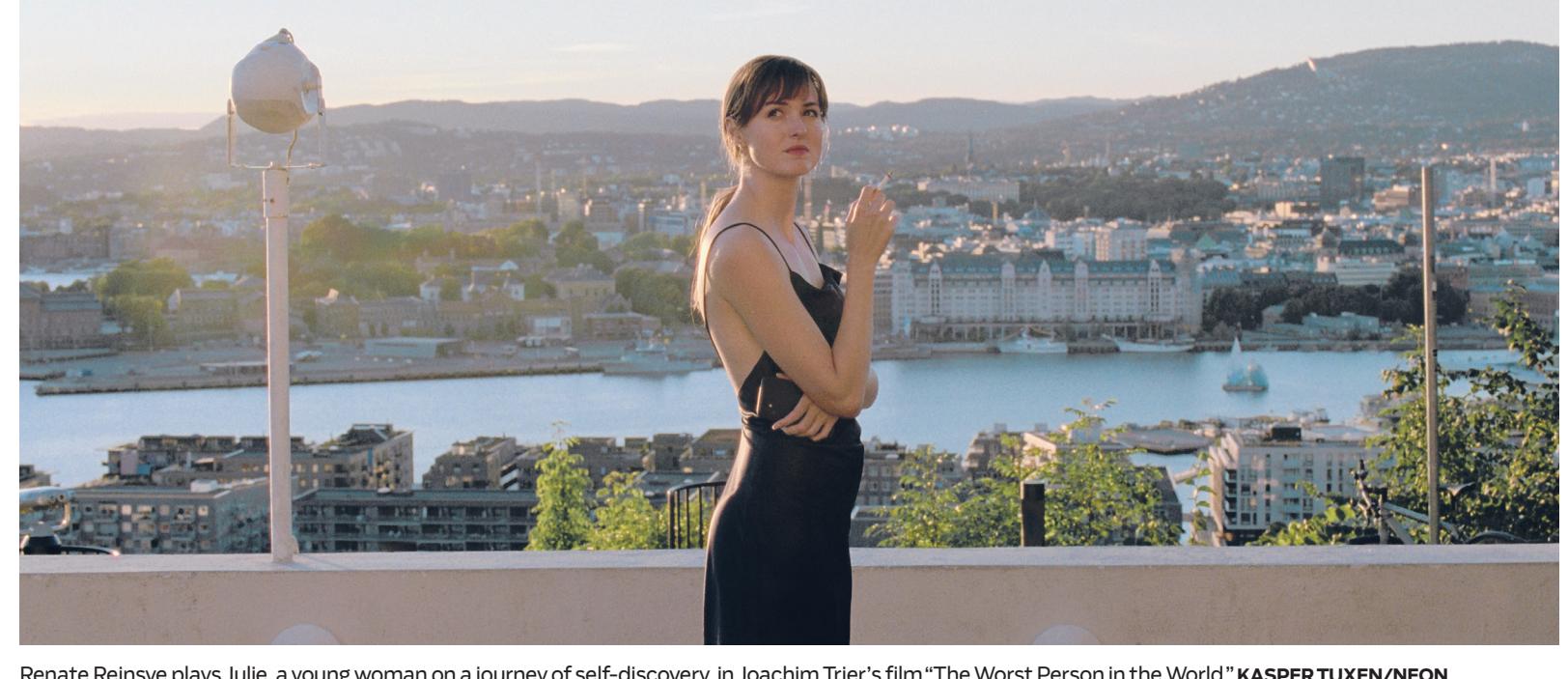
Associated Press

Last fall, film director Joachim Trier and actors Renate Reinsve and Anders Danielsen Lie gathered at a restaurant in midtown New York to talk about why people seem to keep crying during their movie.

If their film, "The Worst Person in the World," was a weepy melodrama, such responses could be expected. But while "The Worst Person in the World" has moments of grief and loss, it's principally about an uncertain, meandering journey of self-discovery for a young woman (Reinsve) in early adulthood. The emotional response the film engenders has more to do with its warm compassion and fullness of spirit. It captures much of the delight, confusion, folly and romance of life, in 35mm.

"A friend of mine was jokingly saying, 'Oh, TV shows. Isn't that very 2016?'" Trier said. "There's something about: We need to fight for the big screen again and do something that breathes and has a big heart. That's where we're coming from."

"The Worst Person in the World" is Trier's stab at something like a romantic comedy. It has already been a long ride for the film, which landed Reinsve the award for best actress at the Cannes Film Festival last summer and finally is now in theaters. Since then, it has been a regular at film festivals (including the New York Film Festival, during which an interview took place



Renate Reinsve plays Julie, a young woman on a journey of self-discovery, in Joachim Trier's film "The Worst Person in the World." KASPER TUXEN/NEON

in September before the film's release was delayed) and on Top 10 lists.

It's the third film in Trier's Oslo trilogy, a disjointed but similarly set group of films begun with 2008's "Reprise" and continued with 2012's "Oslo, August 31" — both of which starred Lie.

"The Worst Person in the World," though, takes place over a longer stretch of time, with ellipses in between. It's a period of years in Julie's life that spans her relationship with a ready-to-settle-down cartoonist (Lie) and a hard-to-shake chance encounter (Herbert Nordrum).

Including prologue and epilogue, the film has 12 chapters. Julie, a 29-year-old millennial searching for a purpose, envisions a grand narrative for her life, but she experiences it without anything like an objective perspective.

"It's Scandinavian and pretentious, but Kierkegaard once said 'We can only understand life backwards,

but we're forced to live it forwards,'" says Trier. "We make a self-narrative where we do see our life in chapters. I put my life in chapters by the eras I made my films. I remember 10 years ago being with Anders making 'Oslo, August 31,' and Renate was there, just out of theater school, and us realizing she was actually awesome, and we had to do something later."

Reinsve had a small part in "Oslo, August 31" with just one line: "Let's go to the party."

"That's a very human thing to say," Lie says, chuckling. "Part of life."

While scripting "The Worst Person in the World" with his regular writing partner, Eskil Vogt, Trier began to imagine Reinsve, who had spent the intervening years largely in theater, in the role. The movie has been a breakthrough for the actor. For Reinsve, 34, who is still adjusting to her new fame, Julie's sense of constant

existential wonder is easy to connect to.

"I agree with her a lot," says Reinsve. "It's impossible to make a choice that's right. You just have to live it, you live out the chaos. But you don't know until later. I can relate to that very much. It's all chaos. I've just surrendered."

If "The Worst Person in the World" is about the indecision that can grip anyone as they navigate their way through life, it's an ongoing issue for Lie. While a celebrated and widely known actor (the National Society of Film Critics named him best supporting actor for his performance in "The Worst Person in the World"), Lie works as a full-time doctor in Oslo when he's not acting.

"That's my chaos," he sighs.

But for the 43-year-old actor-doctor, the twists and turns of fate are hard to separate from the fictional lives he's played across the Oslo trilogy. To him, a

connecting theme in the films is the clash between one's expectations for their life and how it actually turns out — on- and off-screen. "Reprise" led directly to Lie meeting his wife at a party for the film.

"We think that our lives will be like a story with a linear development. But when we live our lives, in the present, it's just random chaos all over the place. Why am I here? What's my purpose?" says Lie. "Then when you look back on your life, there's structure. You create a narrative to make sense of what's going on."

Trier, though, didn't want "The Worst Person in the World" to be weighed down by its existentialism. He plays with time, even stopping it in one moment of magical realism that he likes to compare to the "Twist and Shout" parade scene in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." To Trier, "The Worst Person in the World" is part of an earnest and playful tradition that

spans both international art house and Hollywood studio, encompassing the French New Wave, George Cukor screwball comedies and the '70s films of Paul Mazursky, Mike Nichols and Hal Ashby.

"There's a strand of cinema that plays around with this, that form doesn't have to be a formal, static camera of seriousness but a way of accessing human emotions in a musical way," says Trier. "We talked about it almost being a musical even though there's no song and dance numbers."

That people keep responding — and, yes, crying — at "The Worst Person in the World" is to Trier a sign that audiences are embracing the movie's intimacy, "and caring for it."

"If you feel like you can access that space watching the movie where you can allow yourself to be emotional like that," he says, "that's the biggest compliment."

### CELEBRITIES

## Johansson, Jost reuniting on-screen

From news services

Scarlett Johansson and Colin Jost once made comedy skits on "Saturday Night Live," but now the married couple will reunite on-screen to dodge a mind-reading Alexa device in a new Super Bowl commercial.

Johansson and Jost put their normal game-day routine at home into action with the help of the Amazon device — a virtual personal assistant that plays music, tells the weather, and delivers news and sports. In the ad, the couple is initially in awe of Alexa's functionalities, but then imagines a world where Alexa reads their thoughts on a daily basis.

The 60-second ad launched Monday and will be televised during Sunday's Super Bowl.

The commercial attempts to take a comical approach on the situation, which Jost believes every couple would "relate to on some level."

"They exaggerated the situation that I think (is) grounded in reality of couples in general," said Jost.

The "Black Widow" actor and "Saturday Night Live" star — who married in 2020 — called their first time working together since they united on the late-night sketch series an enjoyable experience. Johansson called filming the commercial fun and hopes the millions of Super Bowl viewers enjoy their ad as much as them.

"Of course, you want to make sure it lands," Johansson said. "It's a little nerve-wracking, but it's also exciting to get an audience with that reach."

**Jenner announces birth of 2nd child with Scott:** Kylie Jenner announced the birth of her second child with rapper Travis Scott in a post Sunday on social media — with a blue heart



Colin Jost and Scarlett Johansson star in a new Super Bowl commercial airing Sunday. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION 2020

indicating it's a boy.

The 24-year-old reality star and makeup mogul didn't disclose the new baby's name.

The child was born

Wednesday, as the

Instagram post was

captioned with the date

"2/2/22." The black-and-white photo shows the

newborn's hand appar-

ently being held by his big

sister, Stormi, who turned

4 on Feb. 1.

Jenner and Scott, 30, have been dating since

2017, but the couple reportedly split in

2019 and continued to

co-parent their daughter.

They reconciled in 2021.

Jenner announced she was

pregnant that September.

**'Jackass Forever' opens at No. 1:** "Jackass Forever," the fourth movie in the anarchic series, topped the box office and earned \$23.5 million in ticket sales in its first weekend in theaters, according to

studio estimates Sunday. It not only exceeded expectations but also easily bested its other main competitors, the big budget sci-fi spectacle "Moonfall" and "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which has 6 of its 8 weeks at No. 1.

Lionsgate estimated "Moonfall's" opening weekend grosses to be just over \$10 million. "Spider-Man: No Way Home" took in an additional \$9.6 million, bringing its domestic total to \$748.9 million. Globally, its earnings total \$1.77 billion.

**Feb. 8 birthdays:** Com-

poser John Williams is 90.

Journalist Ted Koppel is 82.

Actor Nick Nolte is 81.

Actor Mary Steenburgen is 69.

Author John Grisham is 67.

Singer Vince Neil is 61.

Actor Seth Green is 48.

Actor William Jackson

Harper is 42. Actor Jim

Parrack is 41. Actor Cecily

Strong is 38. Musician

Anderson Paak is 36.



## ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

## Sister, husband caught in cycle of addiction

**Dear Amy:** My sister "Lisa's" husband "Bart" is an alcoholic. Although he's been sober for long periods, he's had at least a dozen relapses in the past 15 years.

Lisa denies that Bart has ever become violent when under the influence, but he typically rants and rages, and sometimes vomits and soils himself. She cleans up the mess. She's even bought him alcohol because he's convinced her that if he suddenly stops, he may die.

When Bart is sober, he's an affectionate and funny guy. Lisa can't bring herself to leave him; she will demand that he get into treatment, he may get sober in a treatment program for a few weeks/few months, and then the cycle repeats.

She's the breadwinner. He works sporadically but his drinking has impacted his employability.

She has occasionally come to sleep on my couch during his binges, but never for more than a few days. Lisa has also been to therapy and Al-anon, but doesn't stick with either.

I'm fed up with giving her the same advice over and over: stop enabling him; stop believing him, move out until he has been sober and in treatment for months, and move out the minute he starts drinking again. She agrees with me — and then she goes right back to tolerating his behavior.

Am I enabling her? What can I do the next time this happens?

— *Frustrated Sister*

**Dear Frustrated:** Your sister is a vital component to her husband's addiction.

If she had really absorbed the lessons provided by her Al-anon program, she would only put a blanket over her husband when he passed out on the floor.

By cleaning him up when he falls, she is protecting him from the actual consequences of his addiction. By bringing alcohol home, she is contributing to his addiction.

If she wanted her life to be different, she would commit to her "friends and family" program, even if her husband didn't commit to his sobriety.

Yes, by providing housing for her, you are to some extent also enabling her to stay in her addiction cycle.

You could also "put a blanket" over your sister by welcoming her into your house when she needs it, but not offer advice or counsel of any kind. She knows what she needs to do, but she is not ready.

Until she reaches her low point, she will continue to accept your blanket and reject your advice.

Work on your ability to accept a situation you are powerless to control. These peer-led support programs are called "friends and family" groups for a reason. Check Al-anon.org for a meeting you can attend.

**Dear Amy:** I am 25 years old and have been in my job since graduating from college, four years ago.

Over the past year, I have grown to hate this job and even some of my co-workers. I know I've been languishing in one of those thankless "first jobs."

Of course, working through the pandemic hasn't helped. Honestly, I got used to working from

home, and now that I've been asked to return to the office, I just dread it.

I've found a new job and I'm excited about it. My question is how should I exit from my current job? Honestly, I want to post one of those viral "I quit!" videos, but — maybe that's not too smart.

Your thoughts?

— *Quitting Time*

**Dear Quitting:** Like most people, I love those viral videos of people dancing through the office as they quit in spectacular fashion.

I wonder about the other videos — the ones that don't go viral enough to inoculate the person making them. The ones that are passed along to the next employer, and the one after that.

It's a pretty dumb choice, unless you can afford the consequences — and it doesn't seem as if you can.

**Dear Amy:** Regarding "C," whose fiance was arrested for not keeping his address updated with the sex offender registry, I have some experience dealing with offenders.

Failure to keep the registry updated is usually an attempt to keep off law enforcement's radar. Many re-offend again, helped by people in their lives who have been hoodwinked.

My advice to C is to run.

— *Retired Corrections Officer*

**Dear Officer:** I agree. Thank you.

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# Provocative, creative fare looks deep into past

TV marking Black History Month with array of programs

By Lynn Elber  
Associated Press

How U.S. history is told and taught is being challenged on several fronts, but television's approach to Black History Month is firmly in overdrive.

There's a wealth of provocative and creative Black-focused programs in February, looking deep into the past to examine topics such as the roots of slavery and the achievements of towering figures, including Frederick Douglass. Freshly painful chapters including the 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin in Florida also get attention.

The post-George Floyd onset of racial reckoning and the subsequent backlash have coincided with the growth of streaming and its voracious need for content, a two-fold incentive for TV to pay heed to the sweep and nuance of Black experience.

With broadcast networks and cable channels trying to keep pace with streaming services, there's an impressive field of documentaries, profiles and more ahead.

Here are some of the highlights.

**'One Thousand Years of Slavery':** Smithsonian Channel, through Feb. 28. The four-part docuseries takes a global look at forced labor, examining its effect on people and societies.

Prominent figures including Debbie Allen, Valerie Jarrett, Lorraine Toussaint and U.S. Sen. Cory Booker seek out their legacy from slavery as the program explores Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere in an effort to look anew at history. The series from Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance's production company "stretches the canvas beyond the 400 years we've traditionally



Marian Anderson performs in 1939 on the Lincoln Memorial steps in Washington, D.C. A film on PBS details her life and legacy. AP



Denzel Whitaker will perform a 1941 speech by the title orator and writer in "Frederick Douglass: In Five Speeches." HBO

learned about" U.S. slavery, Bassett said in a statement. Vance narrates the series airing Mondays.

**'everything's gonna be all white':** Showtime, Feb. 11. An inventive, lively and trenchant assessment of race in American history from the perspective of people of color. The three-

part docuseries delves into topics including racial identity, the ongoing effects of racism on housing, education and health care and efforts by Indigenous people to protect their land. Historians, artists, activists and others weigh in, including Ibram X. Kendi, Jemele Hill, Favianna Rodriguez and Marga-

ret Cho. Director Sacha Jenkins has described the series as embodying "the collected feelings of folks of color in America ... this is how America has treated us. This is how we feel."

**'American Masters: Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands':** PBS, Feb. 8. A study of the artist and civil rights advocate's life, career and legacy, the film has the advantage of her speaking as well as singing voice. Anderson recorded more than 30 cassette tapes of interviews in the 1950s in preparation for writing a memoir and they, along with other archival material, were used to "explore history from her point of view," director Rita Coburn said in a statement. The first Black performer in a leading role at the Metropolitan Opera, Anderson made an indelible stand for civil rights and human dignity in 1939 when she was barred from one venue and instead sang to the world from the Lincoln Memorial.

**'Profiled: The Black Man':** Discovery+, Feb. 12 through March 5. The four-part docuseries uses historical footage, interviews and commentary to spotlight the difficulties confronting Black men over the decades and those who overcame them. The hour-long episodes each address a stubborn stereotype that pigeonholes Black males: dangerous, absentee fathers, detractors of Black females, and unemotional. Actor Tristan "Mack" Wilds is the host, with activists DeRay Mckesson and Tamika Mallory and actor Billy Porter among those sharing their perspectives.

**'Oscar Micheaux: The Superhero of Black Filmmaking':** TCM, Feb. 13. The documentary about early 20th-century movie pioneer Micheaux is part of the channel's monthlong tribute to Black achievement in filmmaking, which includes TCM host Jacqueline Stewart and other experts discussing

movies. David Oyelowo, who played Martin Luther King Jr. in "Selma," will join Stewart on Feb. 20 for the airing of Ava DuVernay's 2014 film and on Feb. 27 for the double-bill of Spike Lee's 1992 "Malcolm X" starring Denzel Washington and the 1968 Agnes Varda documentary "Black Panthers."

**'Frederick Douglass: In Five Speeches':** HBO, Feb. 23. Jeffrey Wright and others bring to life the quintet of key speeches by Douglass, who escaped slavery and became an abolitionist, renowned orator and writer. Denzel Whitaker performs the 1841 speech Douglass gave at an anti-slavery convention, an early public recounting of his life as a slave, with Nicole Beharie delivering "What to the Slave, is the Fourth of July?," an 1852 address by Douglass aimed at reminding his fellow citizens that Black people remained enslaved a quarter-century after the Declaration of Independence was signed. Scholars David Blight and Henry Louis Gates Jr. and a Douglass descendant are among those offering context.

**'Trayvon Martin: 10 Years Later':** CBS News Streaming Network and Smithsonian Channel on Feb. 26; BET on Feb. 28. Gayle King anchors the special that revisits the 17-year-old's fatal shooting in Sanford, Florida, by George Zimmerman and its part in what would become the Black Lives Matter movement. Trayvon's mother, Sybrina Fulton, and members of Mothers of the Movement, a support group she founded for those who have lost children to gun violence or police, are interviewed along with social activists, lawyers and others. The special also examines how Trayvon's death and Zimmerman's acquittal fanned a new wave of activism among pro athletes.

## TV Q&A

### What's in McDermott's future?

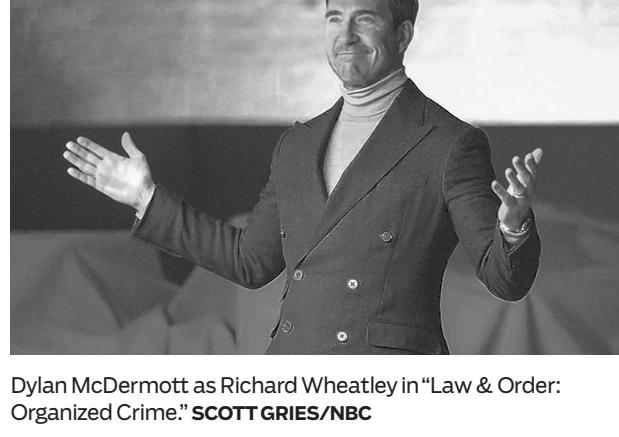
By Rich Heldenfels  
Tribune News Service

**Q: Is Dylan McDermott going to be on "Law & Order" and "FBI"?**

A: This answer begins with the recent announcement that Julian McMahon, who played Jess LaCroix on "FBI: Most Wanted," has decided to leave the drama, reportedly for "additional creative pursuits." That led the show to hire McDermott, recently seen as the villainous Richard Wheatley on "Law & Order: Organized Crime." (The "FBI" programs and "Law & Order" shows all come from the same producer, Dick Wolf.) As Variety noted, McDermott's "L&O" storyline has been coming to an end, freeing him up to appear on "Most Wanted" after McMahon departs later this spring.

**Q: Will Damian Lewis be back on "Billions"?**

A: Lewis, who played Bobby Axelrod on the Showtime drama, left the series at the end of its fifth season. He told the New York Times last year that he had signed up for five seasons and after that long, "it's difficult to keep mining (the character) creatively. ... We know who he is." Lewis had also faced a personal tragedy, the death of his wife, actor Helen McCrory, last year from cancer. He maintained to the Times that McCrory's death did not factor into his "Billions" decision — with the show having long prepared for his departure — but it has led to his staying close to home in London with his two teenage children. (His final appearances on "Billions" were mostly done remotely for that reason, the Times said.) He did not close the door on "Billions" forever: "There's an opportunity maybe for me to return. ... But for



Dylan McDermott as Richard Wheatley in "Law & Order: Organized Crime." SCOTT GRIES/NBC

now, broadly speaking, Axe has been vanquished."

**Q: What is the significance of the apostrophe in "NCIS Hawai'i"?**

A: The spelling in the title of the CBS drama is said to be one Hawaiians themselves prefer. But that is not an apostrophe in the name. It's a mark called an 'okina. Here is the explanation from the University of Hawai'i website: "The Hawaiian language uses two diacritical markings. The 'okina is a glottal stop, similar to the sound between the syllables of 'oh-oh.' In print, the correct mark for designating an 'okina is the single open quote mark. The kahako is a macron, which lengthens and adds stress to the marked vowel. For example, 'pau,' depending on placement of 'okina and kahako, can mean completed, smudge, moist or skirt."

**Q: Is Vanna White planning to retire from "Wheel of Fortune"?**

Pat Sajak's daughter is appearing in promos, and it was mentioned that she visited Vanna in her dressing room to "chat" about the show. Is she being groomed to take Vanna's place?

A: I can't see far in the future, and both Sajak

and White have contracts through the 2023-24 season. Maggie Sajak is the show's "social correspondent," who on the "Wheel" website describes her job as "the opportunity to bring an insider's look at the show with new behind-the-scenes features, interviews, videos and insights." While she was a letter-turner at one point when her dad had surgery and White filled in as host, Maggie seems to have plenty of other options. Her "Wheel" info says she "graduated from Princeton University, finished a postgraduate program at Columbia University, and is currently attending law school." She has also done some country music singing.

**Q: Will a British show called "A Touch of Frost," starring David Jason, ever return?**

A: The series ended in 2010. According to the BBC, Jason decided Frost had become "a little long in the tooth," and it was time to end the show.

*Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.*

## HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

**Aries (March 21-April 19):**

Indulging in a small treat could give you a boost today. You might be able to have fun and avoid spending money by window-shopping or browsing online. You can always buy things later once you can afford them.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):**

Change is favored right now. Think about letting your hair down and taking a risk. Maybe it won't work out, but if you don't try, you'll never know. It doesn't have to be a big deal — even a small change to your routine could brighten things up. Let your instincts guide you through your day.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):**

Your past could be affecting you in the present. That isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it can throw you a little off course. You may need to retreat for a short time to consider your next move. A few extra moments of reflection now could save you from a lot of grief later.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):**

Connect with new people. Joining forces with someone who shares your interests could add sparkle to your life. Make today the day you join a new group or club! It could turn out to be enjoyable. New connections or fresh activities might even lead you in a totally different direction.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):**

You're even more irresistibly fun than usual right now! Something you're doing could be pulling people to your side. If you want to spend a few hours with a loved one, you may be spoiled for choice.

*There's no need to waste too much time analyzing what's going on.*

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):**

It's best to react as soon as you can. Despite how things may appear, something within your grasp might not be around for long. You could end up kicking yourself later if you lose out due to procrastination. The only bad response would be not bothering to respond at all.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):**

You might need to temper your enthusiasm a little. Read the room before volunteering your ideas about things. Your friends are likely already willing to listen, but remember that it isn't a personal attack if they disagree with your plans. It would be a boring world if all of us thought the same.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):**

Getting into an argument will be all too easy at this time. Shouting about it won't resolve the issue. Biting your tongue and listening to the opposing view will be worth it in the long run. There's a chance they're right! They'll be more prepared to listen to you once you've listened.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):**

You don't need to share everything that pops into your head. Your mouth is moving much faster than your brain — you could easily offend someone. Think twice. Some stories aren't yours, so if you aren't sure whether or not to be discreet, you probably should be.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):**

If there's something you've been meaning to get around to, consider moving other plans to make the time. You can probably achieve much more than you realize! The results will probably be more than worthwhile. It might not require much hard work.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):**

It's up to you to stop life from being dull. Not everything has to last forever — it's OK to enjoy having a good time simply for the sake of it. That said, fun may not come knocking at your door. Get outside and chase it! Tasks should go more smoothly if you allow yourself time to have fun.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):**

An extra burst of energy should help you get more done, though you might have to beware of being too slapdash. If things have waited this long, they can likely wait a little longer. Focus on getting one or two things done well instead of diving into everything at once.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):**

You're even more irresistibly fun than usual right now! Something you're doing could be pulling people to your side. If you want to spend a few hours with a loved one, you may be spoiled for choice. There's no need to waste too much time analyzing what's going on.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

**On Feb. 8, 1587:** Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded after she was implicated in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I.

**In 1910:** The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

**In 1922:** President Warren G. Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

**In 1960:** Work began on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**In 1965:** The Supremes' record "Stop! In the Name of Love" was released.

**In 1968:** Three Black students were killed in a confrontation between

demonstrators and highway patrolmen at South Carolina State University in the wake of protests over a whites-only bowling alley.

**In 1971:** NASDAQ, the world's first electronic stock exchange, held its first trading day.

**In 2007:** Actor Anna Nicole Smith died at age 39 of an accidental drug overdose.

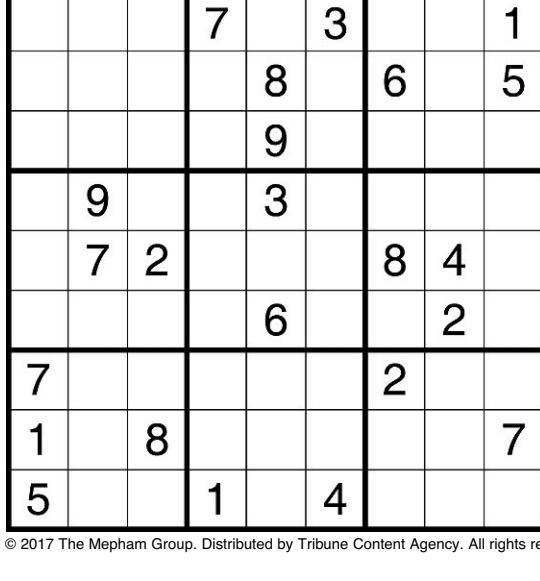
# BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](http://PlayJumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

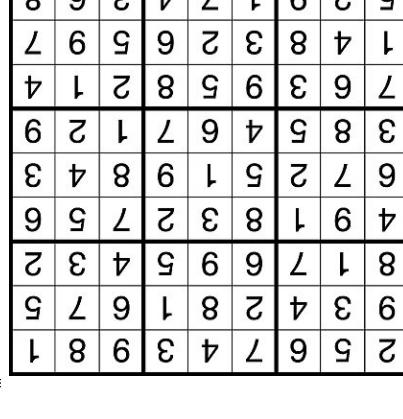
## SUDOKU



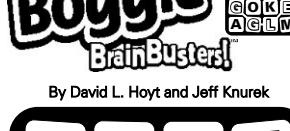
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Level: **1 2 3 4**

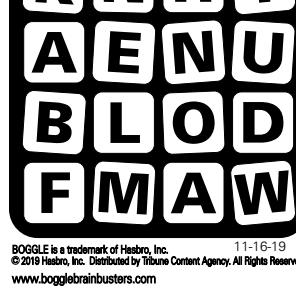
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).



## BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

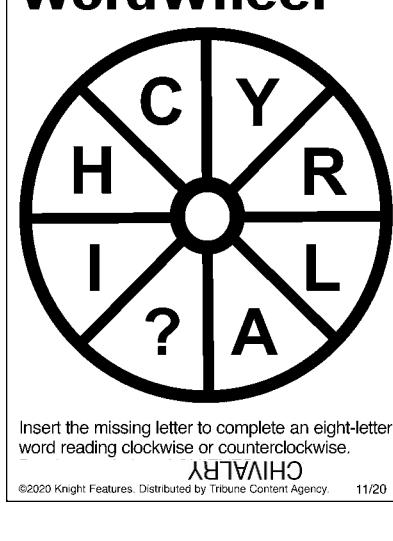
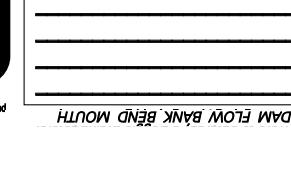


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[www.bogglebrainbusters.com](http://www.bogglebrainbusters.com)

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word lists, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE RATING  
3 letters = 1 point 151+ = Champ  
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert  
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro  
6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Gamer  
7 letters = 6 points 21-30 = Rookie  
8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur  
9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus  
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?  
Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS RELATED TO RIVERS in the grid of letters.

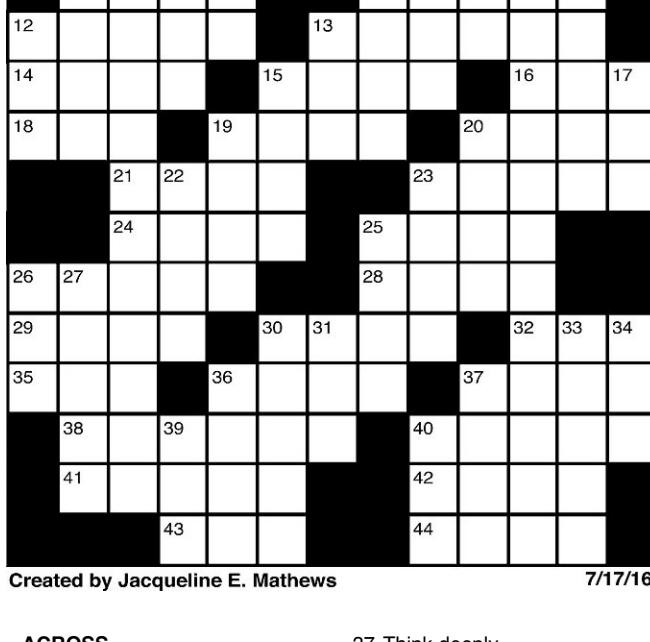


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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## TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/17/16

**ACROSS**  
1 Sammors or Thompson  
5 "One Day \_\_\_ Time"  
8 Calf meat  
9 Singer \_\_\_ Brooks  
12 "The \_\_\_", Alfred Hitchcock horror movie starring Rod Taylor  
13 "Two \_\_\_ Money"; Al Pacino film  
14 To \_\_\_; exactly  
15 "Mr. Candid Camera"  
16 180° from WSW  
18 "Married by Mom and \_\_\_"; reality series  
19 Actor Danza  
20 As sore as a \_\_\_  
21 "American \_\_\_"  
23 Gets just one's feet wet  
24 \_\_\_ off; angry  
25 "The Greatest Story Ever \_\_\_"  
26 Blaze residue  
28 Actor Stonestreet  
29 Rin Tin Tin and Lassie  
30 Acting part  
32 Furniture wood  
35 "Days of \_\_\_ Lives"  
36 \_\_\_ Street Blues"

37 Think deeply  
38 \_\_\_ Sympathy; Deborah Kerr movie  
40 \_\_\_ Days"  
41 Choir songs  
42 Wheel rod  
43 Shopkeeper on "The Waltons"  
44 Claim against property

**DOWN**  
1 Movie for Madonna  
2 Ellen Pompeo's role  
3 \_\_\_ of Honor"; Patrick Dempsey film  
4 Roker and Molinaro  
5 "The \_\_\_ and the Ecstasy"  
6 Small fruit pie  
7 Mr. Linkletter  
10 Series for Matthew Perry  
11 Skater Sonja  
12 "The \_\_\_ News Bears"  
13 \_\_\_ with Dick and Jane"; Jim Carrey movie  
15 Crease  
17 Golfer Ernie \_\_\_  
19 Ballerina's support  
20 "Road to \_\_\_"; Crosby/Hope movie  
22 Shameful grades  
23 "She \_\_\_ a Yellow Ribbon"; John Wayne film  
25 "To \_\_\_ the Truth"  
26 "Much \_\_\_ About Nothing"  
27 " \_\_\_ Park"; animated series  
30 Dishwasher cycle  
31 "The New Adventures of \_\_\_ Christine"  
33 Colorado ski resort  
34 "The Skeleton \_\_\_"; horror movie for Kate Hudson  
36 Williams or Azaria  
37 Calf-length skirt  
39 "What Kind of Fool \_\_\_?"  
40 Linden of "Barney Miller"



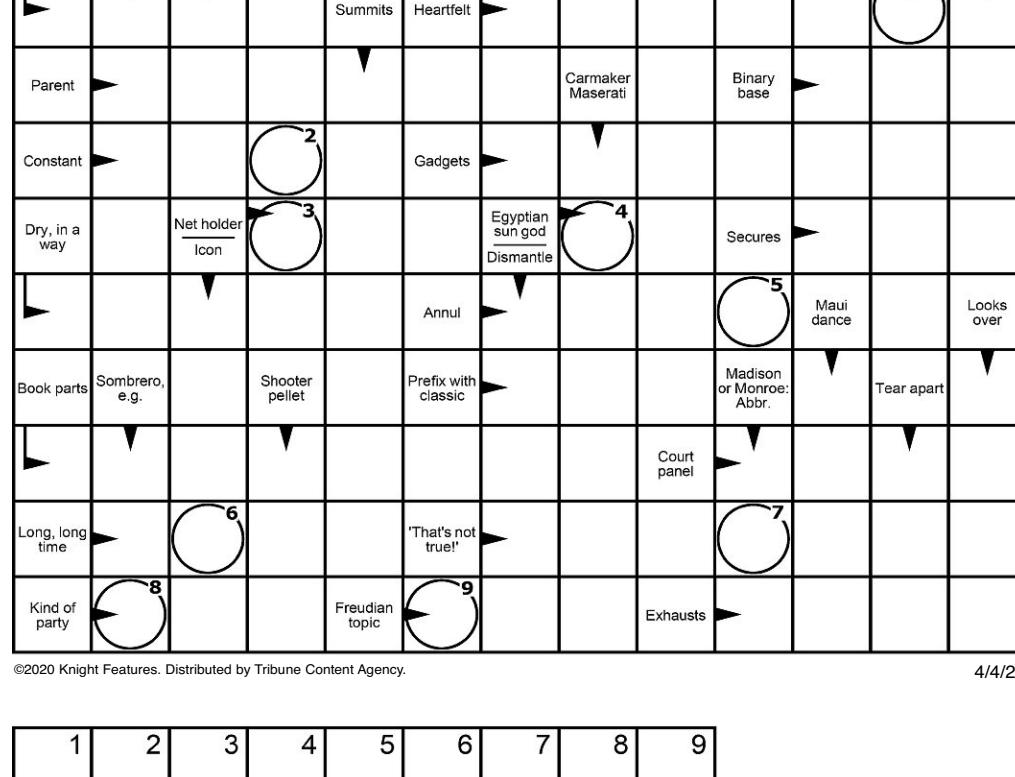
7/24/16

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7/17/16

## ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

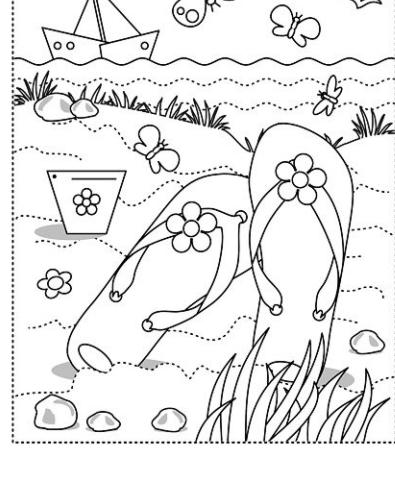
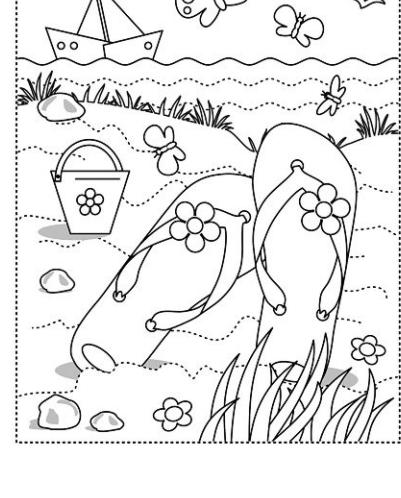


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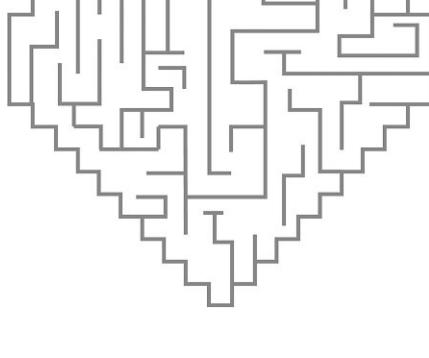
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

## FIND 10 DIFFERENCES

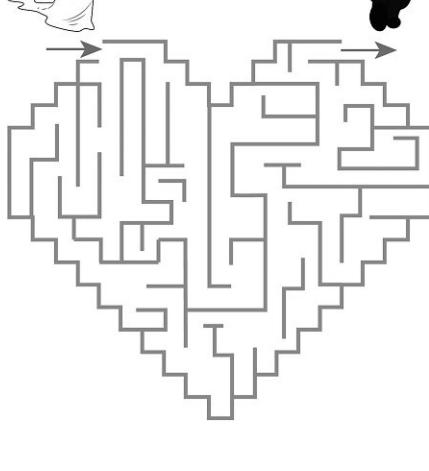


Help the Bride get to her Groom!

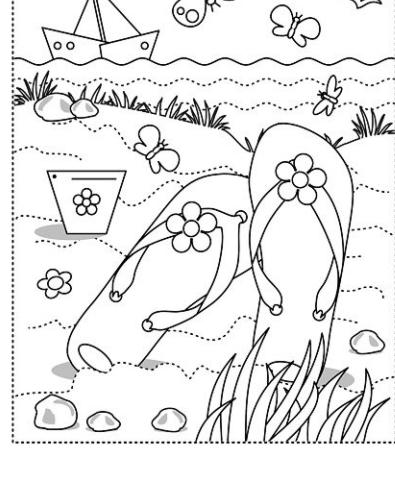
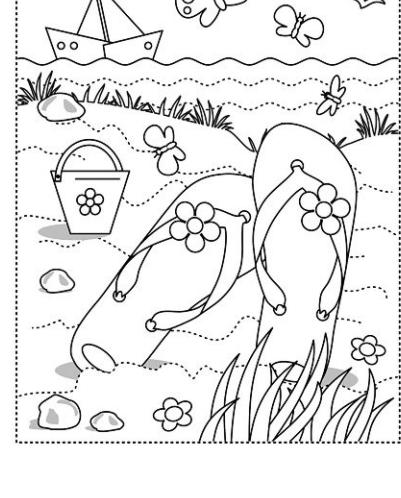


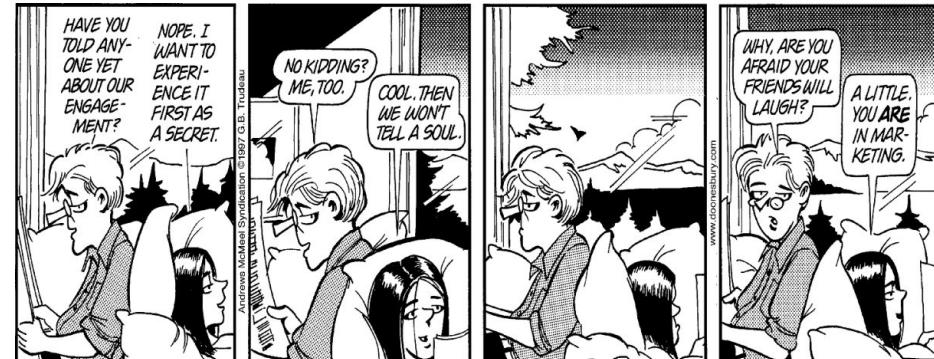
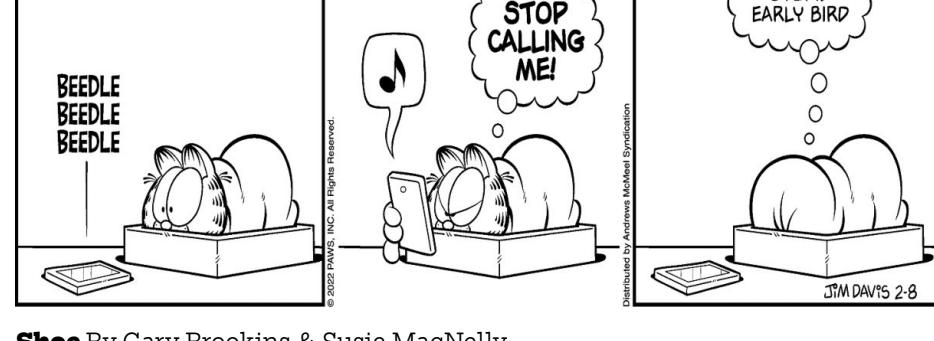
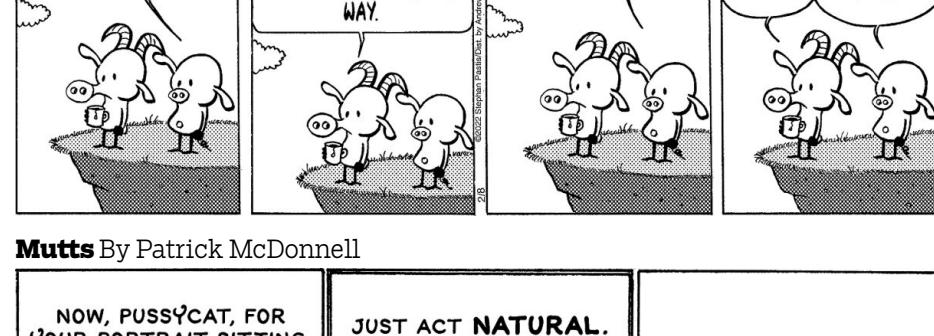
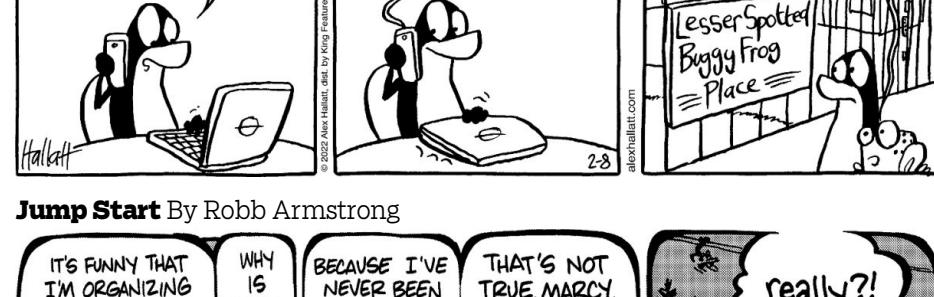
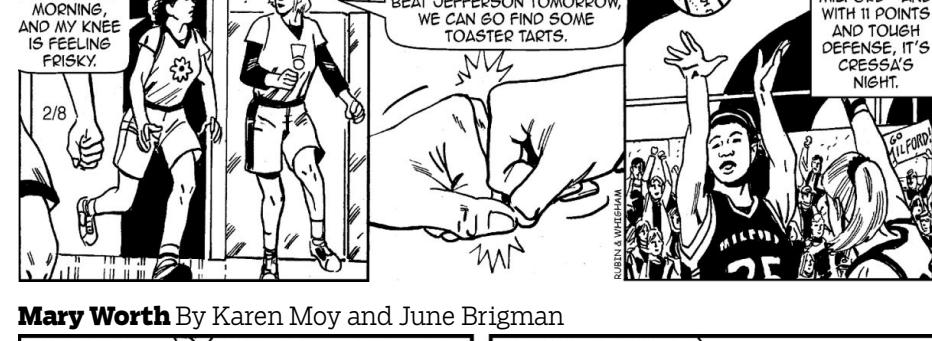
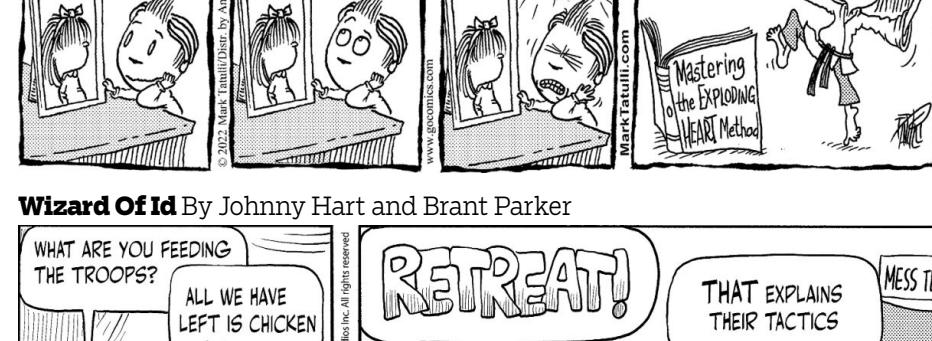
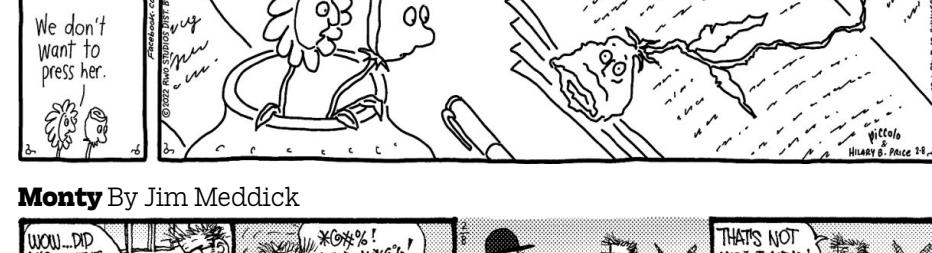
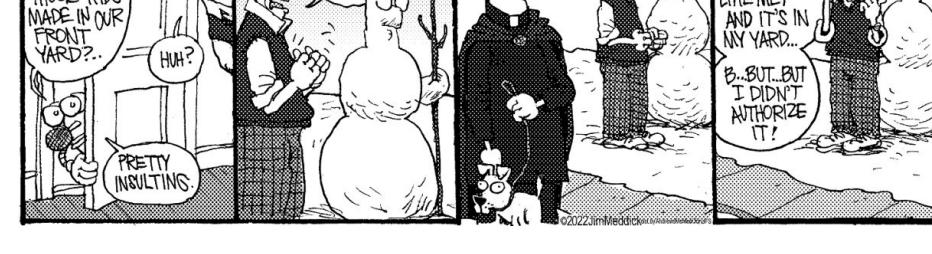
C D R E B R I D E Marriage  
A K E S G R O D E Flower  
W E D S L K D R Kiss  
L F D V D I M I Love  
D N I E V S M N Dress  
W G L I E S A G Bride  
E E G A I R R S Fun  
R A M U R F U N Veil  
Rings

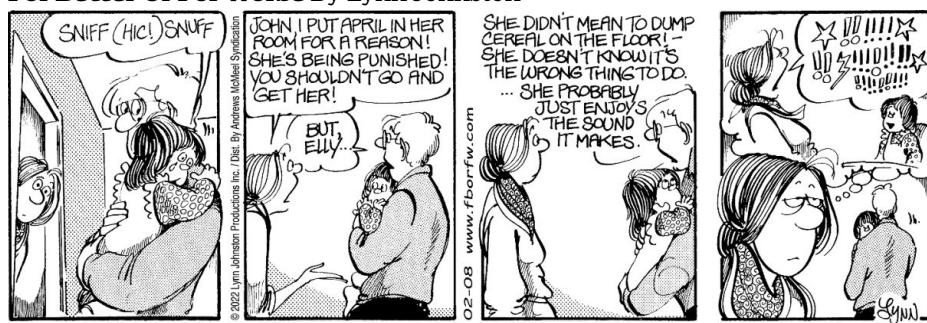
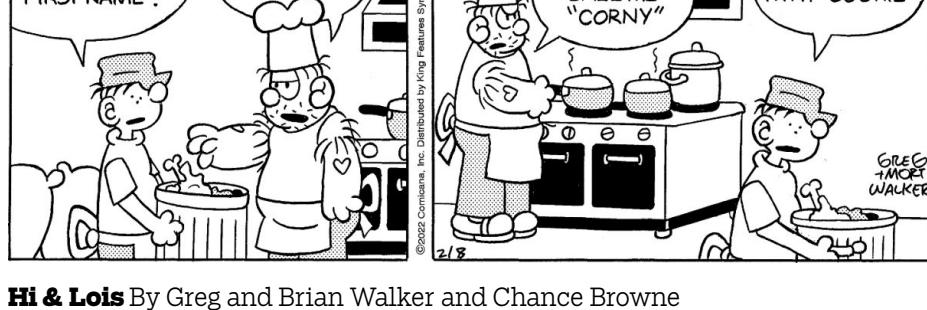
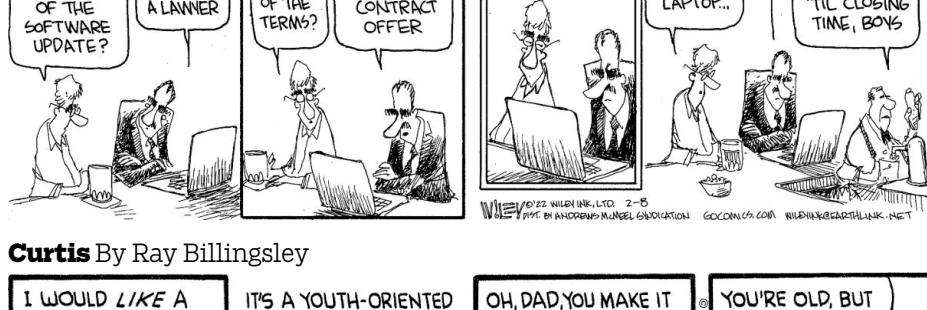
## KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



C D R E B R I D E Marriage  
A K E S G R O D E Flower  
W E D S L K D R Kiss  
L F D V D I M I Love  
D N I E V S M N Dress  
W G L I E S A G Bride  
E E G A I R R S Fun  
R A M U R F U N Veil  
Rings



**Peanuts** By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

**For Better Or For Worse** By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**Across**

1 Salon tool  
5 Bay of Naples isle  
10 Underworld  
boss  
15 Actor Sharif  
16 Setting for some  
van Gogh works  
17 Salad fruit  
18 Stringed  
instrument  
played by Jerry  
Garcia in the  
intro to CSNY's  
"Teach Your  
Children"  
21 Says, "We're  
through!"  
22 Aspire laptop  
maker  
23 Jar top  
24 Silky to the touch  
26 Flip chart  
holders  
29 Have high  
aspirations,  
despite being  
warned not to  
33 Environmental  
prefix  
34 \_\_ kwon do  
35 Say over and  
over  
38 Model  
Campbell  
41 Stumble  
43 Protection  
44 Home of the  
NBA's Magic  
46 Nintendo's  
Super \_\_  
48 CPR  
specialist  
49 "Based on  
what they  
tell me ..."  
53 Water depth  
unit  
55 Newspaper  
space  
measure-  
ment  
56 Laudatory  
verse  
57 Cries of  
discovery  
59 Regal  
domains  
63 Land  
movement

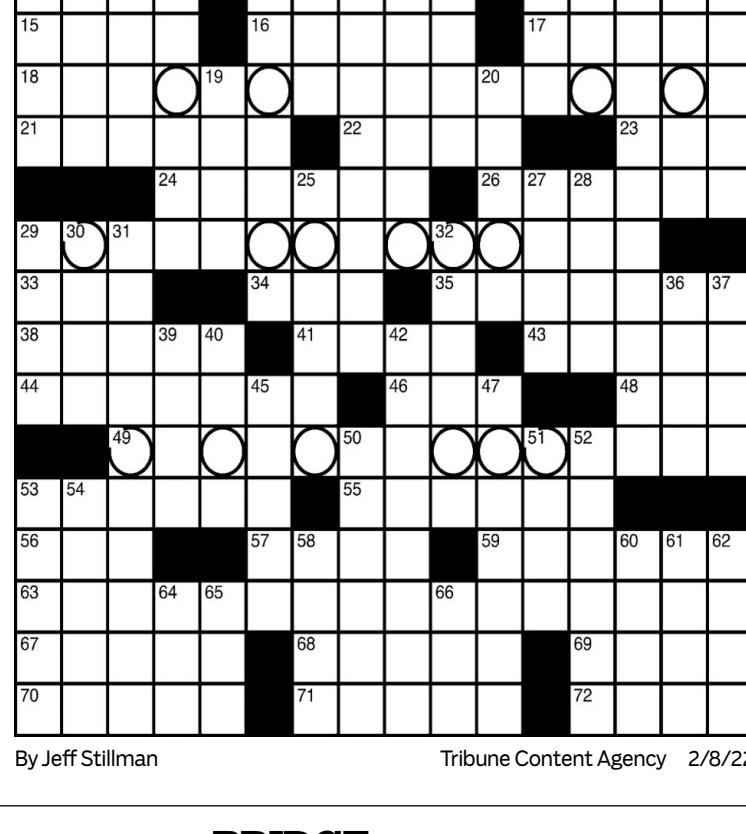
spanning  
millennia ... or  
what each set of  
circles suggests  
67 Like a loud crowd  
68 In unison  
69 Hebrides  
hillside  
70 Author Carroll  
71 Warning  
opening  
72 Rural agreement

9 Archipelago  
part  
10 Trifling amount  
11 Boxing legend  
12 Book names are  
on them  
13 Benefit  
14 Comic-Con  
attendees  
19 Fancy airport  
ride  
20 Say hi to  
25 Soapbox  
speaker  
27 Between  
ports  
28 "You bet!"  
29 UConn women's  
basketball coach  
— Auriemma  
30 Plug-in vehicle,  
briefly  
31 "You missed your  
chance"  
32 Supply, as Muzak  
36 It's up at the end  
of the test  
37 Sunrise dirección

39 Sitcom set in  
Korea  
40 Scoop  
42 Be emphatic  
about  
45 Private Ryan  
portrayer  
Matt  
47 Hester Prynne's  
letter color  
50 "The Tempest"  
king  
51 Like much  
brandy  
52 Close at hand  
53 Kind of point  
54 Be gaga over  
58 Noggin  
60 Old Pisa  
dough  
61 Advanced lit.  
degrees  
62 Academic  
acronym  
64 \_\_chi  
65 E-file agcy.  
66 2022, por  
ejemplo

**Down**

1 Deal with it  
2 Gathering  
clouds, maybe  
3 Anti-DUI  
acronym  
4 Like trumpet  
music  
5 Remove, as a  
demon  
6 Class with easels  
7 Synthetic sofa  
portmanteau  
8 Bounce back  
again  
10 Sitcom set in  
Korea  
11 Scoop  
12 Be emphatic  
about  
13 Benefit  
14 Comic-Con  
attendees  
15 Fancy airport  
ride  
16 Say hi to  
17 Soapbox  
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18 Between  
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19 "You bet!"  
20 UConn women's  
basketball coach  
— Auriemma  
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briefly  
22 Supply, as Muzak  
23 It's up at the end  
of the test  
24 Sunrise dirección



By Jeff Stillman

Tribune Content Agency 2/8/22

**BRIDGE**

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.**NORTH**

♦ 5 2  
♥ A 8 6 2  
♦ A 10 7 3  
♣ 6 4 2

**WEST**

♠ J 10 7 6 4  
♥ K 9 5 3  
♦ 8 5 2  
—

**EAST**

♠ K 9 3  
♥ 10 7  
♦ K 9 4  
♣ Q J 10 7

**SOUTH**

♠ A Q 8  
♥ Q 4  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A K 9 8 5 3

The bidding:  
South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

3 ♣ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

3 NT

Opening lead — six of spades.

**Self-interrogation**

The player who habitually plunges ahead without thought is certain to run into trouble from time to time. As a case in point, consider this deal where West leads a spade against three notrump. Many declarers would take East's king with the ace and impulsively cash the ace of clubs.

When West showed out, the contract would become unmanageable, and South would end up well short of his mark.

Adopting such an approach would supply strong evidence that declarer reacted mechanically to what looked like a routine situation instead of reacting the way he should whenever the contract appears to be a virtual laydown. In such situations, a diligent declarer always asks himself: "What can defeat me?"

The answer to this question is not hard to find. Only a 4-0 club division can place the contract in jeopardy, so declarer should focus his attention on how he might overcome this distribution if it exists. And,

after having done so, South might then see the wisdom of leading the nine of clubs at trick two!

This thoughtful precautionary play pays maximum dividends in the actual case. East takes the nine with the ten and returns a spade, but he is already fighting a losing battle. Declarer wins the spade with the queen, leads a heart to dummy's ace and returns a club.

After East plays the jack from the Q-J-7, South wins with the king, leads a diamond to dummy's ace and plays another club. East's Q-7 succumb to South's A-8-5-3, and declarer finishes with nine tricks.

While it is true that the recommended line of play would cost declarer a 30-point overtrick if the missing clubs were divided 2-2, that is an insignificant consideration when it comes to safeguarding a vulnerable game.

**Tomorrow:** A delicate deduction.**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles.  
One letter to each square,  
to form four ordinary words.

CSBIA

NRIGW

WNRADO

SEPYDE

The desert helped preserve these fossils.

Get the free **JUMBLE** app! [www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com)

THE HUGE FOSSILIZED SKULL FOUND IN THE DESERT WAS ---

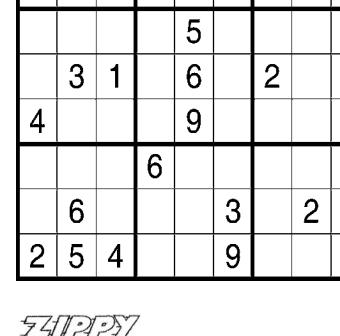
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

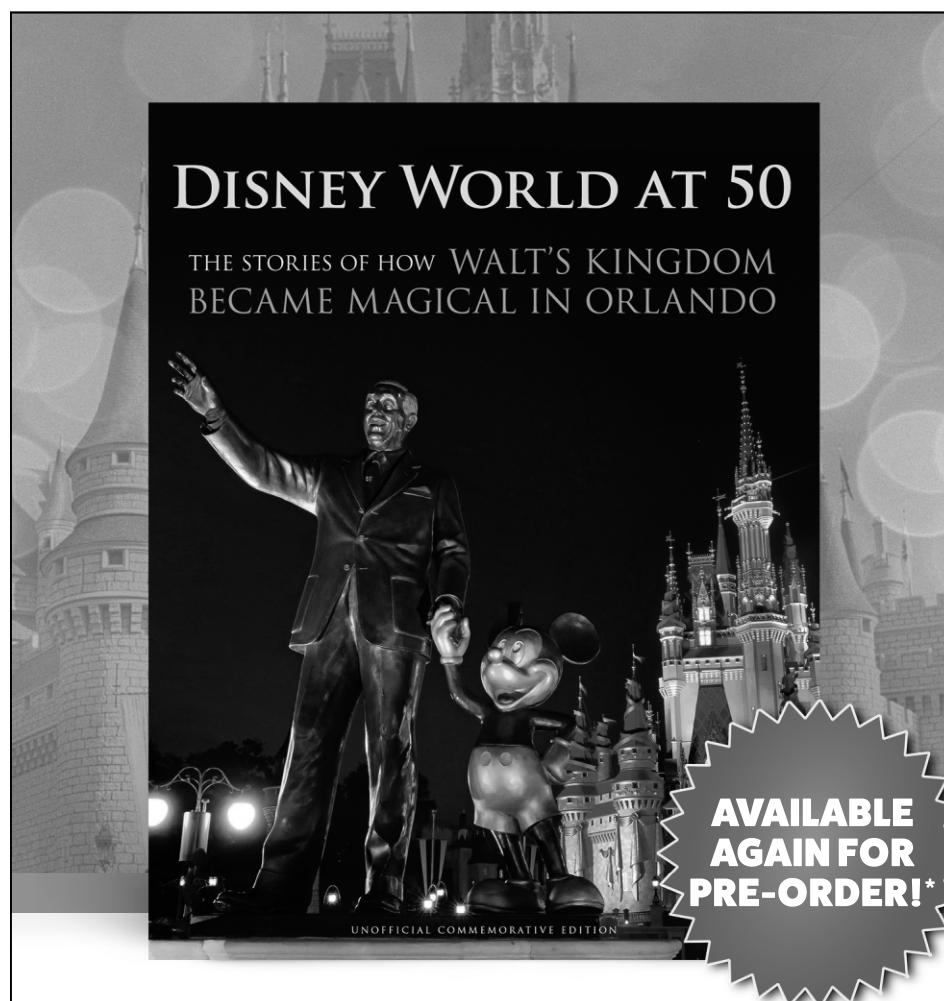
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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROAK DIRTY DOUBLE PRETTY

Answer: He used to comb his hair to one side before his hair — DEPARTED

**TODAY'S SUDOKU**Complete the grid so each  
row, column and 3-by-3 box  
in bold borders) contains  
every digit, 1 to 9. For strate-  
gies on how to solve Sudoku,  
visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)**ANSWER TO  
PREVIOUS PUZZLE**1 7 6 4 5 3 2 8 9  
8 2 4 7 9 1 5 6 3  
3 9 5 2 6 8 4 1 7  
2 6 7 1 4 5 3 9 8  
4 8 9 3 7 2 6 5 1  
5 3 1 6 8 9 7 4 2  
7 5 2 9 1 4 8 3 6  
9 4 3 8 2 6 1 7 5  
6 1 8 5 3 7 9 2 42 5 4 9 1 6 3 8 7  
3 1 6 2 7 4 9 5 8  
4 9 7 5 8 6 1 2 3  
5 6 3 4 9 7 8 1 2  
6 8 1 2 5 3 4 9 7  
7 4 9 8 6 1 5 3 2  
8 3 5 7 9 2 6 4 1  
9 2 7 4 1 8 5 6 3  
1 6 8 9 3 7 2 5 43 2 9 5 6 7 4 8 1  
4 5 8 3 7 1 9 6 2  
5 7 1 2 8 6 3 5 9  
6 9 4 1 3 5 2 7 8  
7 8 6 4 9 2 1 3 5  
8 1 3 6 5 4 7 9 2  
9 5 7 8 2 1 6 4 3  
1 4 2 9 7 3 5 8 64 3 6 8 9 5 1 2 7  
5 1 7 2 4 6 3 8 9  
6 2 8 3 5 7 9 4 1  
7 4 9 6 1 8 5 3 2  
8 5 3 7 2 4 6 1 9  
9 6 1 4 8 2 7 5 3  
1 7 5 9 6 3 8 2 4  
2 8 4 1 3 5 7 6 95 4 1 3 6 2 9 7 8  
6 7 2 8 5 4 1 3 9  
7 3 8 9 1 6 4 5 2  
8 9 5 7 3 1 2 6 4  
9 1 6 4 2 8 5 3 7  
1 2 3 5 7 9 6 8 4  
3 5 7 6 8 4 2 9 1  
4 6 8 1 9 3 7 5 26 1 9 4 5 3 8 2 7  
7 8 3 2 6 4 1 9 5  
8 5 2 7 1 9 6 3 4  
9 3 6 4 8 7 2 5 1  
1 4 7 5 9 2 3 6 8  
2 6 5 8 3 1 7 4 9  
3 7 9 1 6 5 4 8 2  
4 8 1 2 7 6 9 5 37 2 4 5 6 8 3 1 9  
8 3 1 9 7 5 2 4 6  
9 5 6 4 2 1 7 8 3  
1 6 8 3 5 9 4 7 2  
2 7 9 1 4 6 8 5 3  
3 8 5 7 2 4 6 9 1  
4 9 2 6 3 1 5 7 8  
5 1 3 8 9 7 2 6 4  
6 2 7 4 5 8 1 3 98 4 6 9 1 3 5 2 7  
9 5 7 2 8 6 4 3 1  
1 6 3 4 5 7 9 8 2  
2 7 8 5 9 1 6 4 3  
3 8 9 6 7 2 4 5 1  
4 9 5 1 3 8 7 6 2  
5 1 2 6 4 9 3 7 8  
6 2 3 7 8 5 1 9 4  
7 3 4 8 6 2 5 1 98 5 6 9 4 7 3 1 2  
9 6 7 1 8 5 2 4 3  
1 7 8 3 5 6 4 9 5  
2 8 9 4 6 3 7 5 1  
3 9 5 7 2 1 8 6 4  
4 1 6 8 3 9 5 2 7  
5 2 3 4 7 6 1 8 9  
6 3 4 5 8 2 9 7 6  
7 4 5 6 9 1 3 2 89 7 8 2 3 5 6 4 1  
1 2 3 6 4 7 9 5 8  
2 3 4 5 7 8 1 6 9  
3 4 5 6 8 9 2 7 1  
4 5 6 7 9 1 3 8 2  
5 6 7 8 1 2 4 9 3  
6 7 8 9 2 3 5 1 4  
7 8 9 1 3 4 6 2 5  
8 9 1 2 5 6 7 3 69 8 7 4 6 3 5 2 1  
1 2 3 5 7 9 6 4 8  
2 3 4 6 8 1 7 9 5  
3 4 5 7 9 2 8 1 6  
4 5 6 8 3 1 9 7 2  
5 6 7 9 4 2 3 8 1  
6 7 8 1 5 3 4 2 9  
7 8 9 2 6 4 1 5 3  
8 9 1 3 7 5 6 8 41 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2  
4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3  
5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4  
6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5  
7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6  
8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 81 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2  
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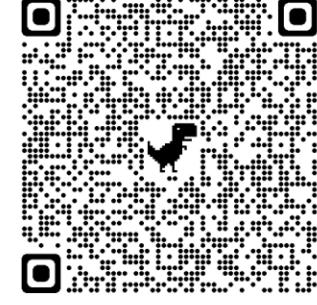


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# SPORTS

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## UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Bottling the formula

After win over Tennessee — the Huskies' most complete game of the season — how do they build on it to reach peak as March approaches?

By Alexa Philippou

Hartford Courant

It's been months since the optimism and energy surrounding the UConn women's basketball team has reached these heights. The Huskies are coming off Sunday's 75-56 win over then-No. 7 Tennessee, their final nonconference test before the NCAA Tournament, with a healthy, dominant Azzi Fudd in tow and Paige Bueckers waiting in the wings to make her return. Demolishing the Lady Vols as it did — UConn led

**Up next**



Villanova at UConn

7 p.m. Wed., SNY

**INSIDE**

Women move up in AP poll after Tennessee win. **Page 4**

by as many as 26 — provided a shot of confidence for a team that's been throttled by injuries, inconsistencies and more nonconference losses than usual this season, and could help its résumé come March. Depending on

which metrics you look at, UConn's best win prior to Sunday's was Dec. 5 against current No. 18 Notre Dame.

The Huskies will learn just how much of a résumé-boosting win it was Thursday when the NCAA Division I women's basketball committee releases its second top 16 reveal. If nothing else, UConn is likely less concerned about seeding and is hoping the win is good enough to get it out of the Spokane Regional and into Bridgeport.

**Turn to UConn, Page 4**



UConn's Aaliyah Edwards, from left, Niha Muhl, Plath Gabriel, Evina Westbrook and Azzi Fudd celebrate near the end of their game against Tennessee on Sunday at the XL Center. UConn won, 75-56.

CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

WINTER OLYMPICS FIGURE SKATING



Nathan Chen, of the United States, warms up before the men's short program figure skating competition at the Winter Olympics early Tuesday in Beijing.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

## The pressure builds

### Stressful lead-up to men's short program for Yale's Nathan Chen

By Dave Skretta

Associated Press

BEIJING — Nathan Chen had enough pressure on him heading into the men's short program at the Beijing Olympics: One of the faces of the NBC broadcast, he is a suave, Nike-sponsored superstar whose marketability rivals his figure skating ability.

On Monday night, he was left worrying about whether he might test positive for COVID-19 before his event began.

That's because his teammate Vincent Zhou returned a positive test earlier in the day, shortly after Team USA won a surprising silver medal in the team event. Chen was

left to wonder whether his own test might come back positive.

"I don't have much information other than the fact he tested for it," Chen said after a late-afternoon final practice Monday, which was also attended by his biggest rival, two-time defending Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan.

"Everything out there is speculation," said Chen, who took a leave of absence from his studies at Yale to prepare for the Olympics. "Where did you get it? Where have you been going around? I've not really been around (Zhou), and any time that I've been around, I've been wearing a mask."

**Turn to Olympics, Page 4**

### WINTER OLYMPICS AT A GLANCE

A look at top results and news from the Beijing Games.

MEDAL LEADERS (as of 6 p.m. ET Monday)				
Country	G	S	B	Tot
Russian Olympic Committee	2	3	2	7
Canada	1	1	4	6
Netherlands	2	2	1	5
Italy	1	3	1	5
China	2	2	0	4

**HIGHLIGHTS**

■ U.S. men's figure skater Vincent Zhou tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, and missed the individual competition. The 21-year-old participated in the team event Sunday.

■ Ren Ziwei of China won the men's 1,000 meters in short track speedskating. Liu Shaolin Sandor of Hungary crossed the line first Monday, but was penalized twice and earned a yellow card. That elevated Ren, right, who crossed second, to the gold.

**More coverage, Page 5**



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Huskies look to regain confidence after losses

By Shreyas Laddha

Hartford Courant

The UConn men's basketball team is trying to get its swagger back.

The Huskies face Marquette on Tuesday night at the XL Center. This past week, they lost to Creighton and Villanova, which dropped them to No. 24 in the Associated Press rankings released on Monday.

The Big East had five teams make the rankings with Providence at No. 11, Villanova at No. 15, Marquette at No. 18, UConn and Xavier at No. 25.

UConn beat Marquette earlier this season, 78-70 on Dec. 21 at Fiserv Forum. This game is crucial for both teams as they are tied in the loss column in conference play. Whichever team wins the game, takes possession of third place behind Providence and Villanova.

The focus for the reeling Huskies is getting back to their strengths.

"When we are at our best, opponents aren't excited about playing against us because of the defense, the rebounding, the physicality and athleticism," said UConn coach Dan Hurley. "The last two games, it hasn't been there. That edge, the toughness, the aggression, the passion we've searched these last two days to find that edginess and toughness that at times have made us an intimidating team to play against."

Hurley's primary goal in the past two days has been to get his players to believe in themselves again.

"The confidence in the group is down," he said. "Obviously, you've lost two in a row, and there is certainly a level of frustration. Players and individuals are struggling, and the team collectively as a group begins to lose confidence."

"We came in for a video session on Sunday," he said. "We did the post-mortem on the video from the Villanova game — things we had to see,

**Turn to Huskies, Page 4**

**Up next**



Marquette at UConn

6:30 p.m., FS1



## Safety Tip of the Day

If you are taking medications for an ailment, remember that many prescription drugs cause side effects that may impair your ability to drive safely.



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## SCOREBOARD

## NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	32	21	.604	—
Toronto	29	23	.558	2 1/2
Brooklyn	29	24	.547	3
Boston	30	25	.545	3
New York	24	29	.453	8
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	35	20	.636	—
Charlotte	28	27	.509	7
Atlanta	25	28	.472	9
Washington	24	29	.453	10
Orlando	12	43	.218	23
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	33	20	.623	—
Milwaukee	34	21	.618	—
Cleveland	33	21	.611	1/2
Indiana	19	36	.345	15
Detroit	12	41	.226	21
WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	PCT	GB
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	37	18	.673	—
Dallas	31	23	.574	5 1/2
New Orleans	21	32	.396	15
San Antonio	20	34	.370	16 1/2
Houston	15	38	.283	21
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	32	21	.604	—
Denver	29	24	.547	3
Minnesota	28	25	.528	4
Portland	21	33	.389	11 1/2
Oklahoma City	17	35	.327	14 1/2
PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	42	10	.808	—
Golden State	40	13	.755	2 1/2
L.A. Clippers	27	28	.491	16 1/2
L.A. Lakers	26	28	.481	17
Sacramento	20	35	.364	23 1/2

## MONDAY'S RESULTS

Miami 121, Washington 100  
Toronto 116, Charlotte 101  
Golden State at Oklahoma City, late  
Phoenix at Chicago, late  
New York at Utah, late

## TUESDAY'S GAMES

Phoenix at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Boston at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.  
Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Detroit at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
New York at Denver, 9 p.m.  
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.  
Minnesota at Sacramento, 10 p.m.  
Orlando at Portland, 10 p.m.

## SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Denver 124, Brooklyn 104  
Minnesota 118, Detroit 105  
Philadelphia 119, Chicago 108  
Boston 116, Orlando 83  
Dallas 103, Atlanta 94  
Cleveland 98, Indiana 85  
New Orleans 120, Houston 107  
Milwaukee 137, L.A. Clippers 113

## TENNIS

## ATP ABN AMRO WORLD TENNIS TOURNAMENT

At Ahoy Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Hardcourt indoor

## MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32

Mackenzie McDonald d., Nikoloz Basilashvili, 6-3, 6-2.  
Alex de Minaur d. David Goffin, 6-0, 6-3.

Hubert Hurkacz d. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, 6-4, 7-6(7).

Cameron Norrie d. Ugo Humbert, 6-2, 6-4

## ATP ARGENTINA OPEN

At Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club, Buenos Aires, Red clay, outdoor

## MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32

#5 Dusan Lajovic d. Benoit Paire, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(3).

Miomir Kecmanovic d. #8 Laslo Djere, 6-4, 1-6, 6-1.

Fernando Verdasco d. Hugo Dellien, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Francisco Cerundolo d. Facundo Bagnis, 7-5, 6-2.

Federico Coria d. Pablo Cuevas, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

## ATP DALLAS OPEN

At Styslinger/Altex Tennis Complex, Dallas, Hardcourt indoor

## MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32

Kevin Anderson d. Sam Querrey, 6-4, 6-4.

#8 Brandon Nakashima vs. John Millman, late

## ST. PETERSBURG LADIES TROPHY

At Sport Club Dinamo, St. Petersburg, Russia, Hardcourt outdoor

## WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32

#2 Anett Kontaveit d. Jil Teichmann, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

#5 Belinda Bencic d. Veronika Kudermetova, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(5).

#8 Elise Mertens d. Alize Cornet, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Ekatrina Alexandrova d. Camila Giorgi, 6-2, 1-6, 6-2.

## SOCCER

## ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

## TUESDAY'S MATCHES

West Ham vs. Watford, 2:45 p.m.

Newcastle vs. Everton, 2:45 p.m.

Burnley vs. Man United, 3 p.m.

Norwich vs. Crystal Palace, 2:45 p.m.

Tottenham vs. Southampton, 2:45 p.m.

Man City vs. Brentford, 2:45 p.m.

Aston Villa vs. Leeds, 3 p.m.

## ODDS

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL TUESDAY

## FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

at Clemson 1/2 North Carolina

at Fla. Atlantic 6/2 Old Dominion

at UConn 5/2 Marquette

at St. Bonaventure 12 Fordham

Saint Louis 8/2 at La Salle

at Buffalo 13 Eastern Michigan

at TCU 3 Oklahoma State

Kentucky 11/2 at South Carolina

at West Virginia 1 Iowa State

Auburn 2/2 at Arkansas

LSU 2/2 at Texas A&M

at Kent State 7 Bowling Green

at Toledo 4 Ohio

at Miami (Ohio) 11 Western Michigan

at Michigan State 4/2 Wisconsin

at Ball State 10/2 Central Michigan

at Indiana State 9/2 Evansville

at VCU 6/2 Rhode Island

at Tulsa 5/2 East Carolina

UMKC 1/2 at St. Thomas

Syracuse 3/2 at Boston College

Akron 8 at N. Illinois

Villanova 5/2 at St. John's

at UCF 1 Wichita State

at Wyoming 3 Utah State

at Purdue 6/2 Illinois

at Northwestern 1 Indiana

Michigan 1/2 at Penn State

at Creighton 8 Butler

at Vanderbilt 7 Missouri

at USC 20 Pacific (Cal)

at UNLV 10 Air Force

at Long Beach St 1/2 CS Fullerton

at San Francisco 18 Portland

UCLA 7/2 at Stanford

St. Mary's (Cal.) 2/2 at Santa Clara

Colorado State 5 at Nevada

## TUESDAY

## FAVORITE LINE O/U UNDERDOG

at Philadelphia off (off) Phoenix

at Brooklyn off (off) Boston

at Atlanta off (off) Indiana

at Memphis off (off) LA Clippers

at New Orleans off (off) Houston

at Dallas off (off) Detroit

at Denver off (off) New York

at LA Lakers off (off) Milwaukee

at Sacramento off (off) Minnesota

at Portland off (off) Orlando

## NHL

## FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

at Montreal 126 New Jersey +105

at Boston 128 Pittsburgh +106

Carolina 265 at Ottawa +215

at Washington 275 Columbus +220

Minnesota 140 at Winnipeg +116

at Edmonton 114 Vegas -105

at Vancouver 245 Arizona +198

## TUESDAY

## FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

Phoenix off (off) Phoenix

at Brooklyn off (off) Boston

at Atlanta off (off) Indiana

at Memphis off (off) LA Clippers

at New Orleans off (off) Houston

at Dallas off (off) Detroit

at Denver off (off) New York

at LA Lakers off (off) Milwaukee

at Sacramento off (off) Minnesota

at Portland off (off) Orlando

## NHL SUPER BOWL 56 SUNDAY

## FAVORITE SP O/U UNDERDOG

LA Rams 4 (48%) at Cincinnati

For the latest odds, go to

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## NHL

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

## ATLANTIC GP W L OT PTS GF GA

Florida 47 32 10 5 69 194 139

Tampa Bay 46 30 10 6 66 157 130

Toronto 42 29 10 3 61 153 112

## SPORTS

### UP NEXT

**UConn MBB:** Marquette (XL), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; at Xavier, Friday, 7 p.m.; at St. John's (MSG), Sunday, noon  
**UConn WBB:** Villanova (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), Friday, 7 p.m.; at Marquette, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

**Celtics:** at Nets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Nuggets, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Sunday, 2 p.m.

**Knicks:** at Nuggets, Tuesday, 9 p.m.; at Warriors, Thursday, 10 p.m.; at Trail Blazers, Saturday, 5 p.m.

**Nets:** Celtics, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Wizards, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Heat, Saturday, 8 p.m.

**UConn hockey:** at Merrimack, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Friday, 7 p.m.; UMass, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

**Bruins:** Penguins, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

**Rangers:** Bruins, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Feb. 20, 5 p.m.

**Wolf Pack:** Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Rochester, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

### TV/RADIO BASKETBALL

**6 p.m.:** North Carolina at Clemson. (Live) ACC

**6:30 p.m.:** Marquette at UConn. (Live) FSI

**7 p.m.:** LSU at Texas A&M. (Live) SEC

**7 p.m.:** Rhode Island at VCU. (Live) CBSSN

**7 p.m.:** Kentucky at South Carolina. (Live) ESPN

**7 p.m.:** Auburn at Arkansas. (Live) ESPN2

**7 p.m.:** Oklahoma State at TCU. (Live) ESPNU

**7:30 p.m.:** Celtics at Nets. (Live) TNT, YES

**8 p.m.:** Syracuse at Boston College. (Live) ACC

**8:30 p.m.:** Villanova at St. John's. (Live) FSI

**9 p.m.:** Knicks at Nuggets. (Live) MSG

**9 p.m.:** Missouri at Vanderbilt. (Live) SEC

**9 p.m.:** Butler at Creighton. (Live) CBSSN

**9 p.m.:** Illinois at Purdue. (Live) ESPN

**9 p.m.:** Michigan at Penn State. (Live) ESPN2

**9 p.m.:** Wichita State at UCF. (Live) ESPNU

**10 p.m.:** Bucks at Lakers. (Live) TNT

**11 p.m.:** Colorado State at Nevada. (Live) CBSSN

**11 p.m.:** UCLA at Stanford. (Live) ESPN2

**11 p.m.:** St. Mary's at Santa Clara. (Live) ESPN

**HOCKEY**

**7 p.m.:** Penguins at Bruins. (Live) NESN

**OLYMPICS**

**7:15 a.m.:** Luge. (Same-day Tape) USA

**8:35 a.m.:** Luge. (Live) USA

**9:20 a.m.:** Speed Skating. (Same-day Tape) USA

**1 p.m.:** Mixed Doubles Curling, Bronze Medal Game Sweden vs Great Britain. (Same-day Tape) USA

**2 p.m.:** Biathlon, Luge, Cross-Country Skiing. (Same-day Tape) NBC

**5 p.m.:** Mixed Doubles Curling, Bronze Medal Game Sweden vs Great Britain. (Same-day Tape) CNBC

**5 p.m.:** Women's Hockey U.S. vs Canada. (Same-day Tape) USA

**8 p.m.:** Snowboarding, Alpine Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Speed Skating. (Live) NBC

**8 p.m.:** Mixed Doubles Curling, Gold Medal Game Italy vs Norway. (Same-day Tape) CNBC

**8:30 p.m.:** Snowboarding. (Live) USA

**10:10 p.m.:** Snowboarding. (Live) USA

**11:35 p.m.:** Snowboarding, Alpine Skiing. (Live) NBC

**1:30 a.m.:** Snowboarding. (Live) USA

**3 a.m.:** Nordic Combined. (Live) USA

**3:50 a.m.:** Men's Hockey ROC vs Switzerland. (Live) USA

**SOCCER**

**3 p.m.:** Premier League Burnley vs Manchester United. (Live) USA



Bristol Central's Donovan Clingan, pictured in a game on Jan. 14 at the HoopHall Classic in Springfield, will lead his team against Windsor on Thursday. **GREGORY PAYAN/AP**

### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL WEEK 8

## Bristol Central, Windsor to face off on Thursday

By Lori Riley

Hartford Courant

and two blocks in a 78-49 win over South Windsor on Thursday.

**Trevor Buchanan, Bolton:** Buchanan scored 39 points (five short of his career high of 44 on Dec. 20 against Windham Tech) in a 62-59 victory over East Windsor on Wednesday. Buchanan was 9 for 11 from the free throw line.

**Jaydon Buckle, Windsor Locks:** Buckle had 28 points in a big NCCC win over Somers, 57-53, last Tuesday and scored 25 points in a 52-47 win over HMTCA on Wednesday.

**Donovan Clingan, Bristol Central:** Clingan had 29 points, 24 rebounds and 12 blocks in an overtime win over Wilbur Cross on Wednesday.

**Matt Curtis, Northwest Catholic:** Curtis scored 22 points and also held Conard sophomore Riley Fox to eight second-half points in a 52-43 victory over Conard last Tuesday. He also had 25 points in a 75-62 victory over St. Bernard on Saturday.

**Riley Fox, Conard:** Fox scored 17 of Conard's 24 points at halftime against Northwest Catholic last Tuesday. Even though he was held to eight second-half points, Fox still managed a team-leading 25 in the 52-43 loss. He also had 29 points in a win over Portland Thursday.

**Joey Johnson, Windham Tech:** Johnson scored his 1,000th point and had double-double (22 points, 14 rebounds), but Windham Tech lost 90-81 in overtime to Windham on Thursday.

**Tadrique Jones, Maloney:** Jones took a full-court pass from Ja'veny DeLeon and hit a layup at the buzzer to boost Maloney past Bristol Eastern 42-41 last Tuesday. Jones led the Spartans with 13 points.

**Cody Palazzi, Somers:** Palazzi scored 30 points in a 57-53 loss to Windsor Locks last Tuesday and 29 points in a 70-33 victory over Coginchaug on Wednesday.

**Simon Partyka, Valley Regional:** Partyka hit the game-winning shot with 14.9 seconds remaining and had 12 points and five assists in a 51-49 win over Wethersfield on Wednesday, in which Valley rallied from a nine-

point fourth-quarter deficit.

### Teams of the week

**Granby:** The Bears (11-3) are on a three-game winning streak after losing to Ellington on Jan. 26 and knocked off Simsbury (11-4) on Wednesday, 38-30.

**Newington:** The Nor'easters (7-8) broke Middletown's six-game winning streak with a 65-57 win on Thursday. After dropping four straight games, Newington won four straight before losing to Xavier on Saturday.

**Weaver:** The Beavers have won nine consecutive games after dropping three of their first four.

### Storylines of the week

■ Canton beat SMSA 46-42 on Tuesday, handing the Tigers their first loss in an NCCC game. Matthew Benedetti had 23 points for Canton (8-6).

■ Classical coach Reggie Tucker won his 250th career game with a 55-38 victory over Innovation on Saturday. Isaiah Waring had 14 points for Classical (10-4).

■ New Britain defeated Bloomfield 72-62 last Monday. It was the Warhawks' first loss of the season. New Britain (6-9) won four straight before losing to NFA on Saturday.

### Games to watch this week

**SMSA at Somers, Tuesday:** SMSA (11-1) will try to rebound from its first loss, but it won't be easy against Somers (10-3) and its high-scoring guard Palazzi.

**Classical Magnet at Weaver, Tuesday:** Weaver (10-3) will host Classical (10-4) after the two teams played a close game last week with Weaver winning 44-36.

**Windsor at Bristol Central, Thursday:** Windsor is young but has depth and talent. Bristol Central has been unstoppable behind Clingan.

*Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.*

### Players of the week

**Kaden Birkett, Enfield:**

Birkett had 23 points, 12 rebounds, three assists

### REGIONAL DIGEST

#### Late run lifts UMass Lowell past UHart men, 85-75

Max Brooks had 19 points, eight rebounds and three blocks to lead UMass Lowell to an 85-75 victory over Hartford in an America East men's basketball game Monday night in Lowell, Mass.

The Hawks (5-15, 3-5) led 40-39 at the half and 47-46 with 16:50 to play in the game. But the River Hawks (12-10, 4-6) took control with a 27-10 run to pull ahead 73-57 with 6:49 to go.

Hunter Marks led UHart with 19 points and five assists. Moses Flowers scored 16 points, D.J. Michell had 15 and David Shriver 11 for the Hawks.

**River Hawks hold off Hartford women:**

Kharis Idom scored 20 points and Kaylen Banwareesingh had 17 points and seven rebounds as UMass Lowell (7-10, 4-4 America East) beat UHart 64-57 in a women's

basketball game in West Hartford. Paula Maurina led the Hawks (2-18, 2-7) with 15 points and five rebounds.

**CCSU's Snoddy is NEC rookie of week again:** Central Connecticut freshman Andre Snoddy was named the Northeast Conference men's basketball rookie of the week. He earned the honor for the second straight week, the fourth time in the past five weeks and the fifth time overall.

Snoddy averaged 14.0 points, 12.0 rebounds and shot 57.1% last week. He has posted three straight double-doubles and has four on the year. He had 10 points, 10 rebounds and a block in a two-point loss to Wagner on Thursday. He posted eight points and eight rebounds in the second half as CCSU nearly erased a 24-point second half deficit. Snoddy followed that with a career-high 18 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists in 45 minutes in an overtime win over FDU.

—Staff reports

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL WEEK 8

## Manchester starting to make some noise after a rough start

By Lori Riley

Hartford Courant

The Manchester girls basketball team lost eight of its first nine games due to COVID-19, with only three girls making it to all the games. Three weeks ago, all nine players were back, and the Red Hawks have won their last four games, including a 57-55 victory over Southington (13-2) on Thursday.

"I say it's the tale of two halves," Manchester coach Leanne Crockett said. "The week we played Glastonbury and New Britain [in January] was the first week I had my whole team. Before that, I had a different team and different girls at practice almost every day. I'm not the only team to go through this, and I'm not using it as an excuse. I think we lost 5-6 games by a total of six points."

She was right. Manchester lost to Wethersfield by two, RHAM by one, New Britain by two.

The winning streak started with a win over Bloomfield on Jan. 25, then Northwest Catholic, Tolland and Southington.

Point guard Tiara Tyson is one of four sophomores and one of the few players who have played every game. She averages 22 points and has had 38- and 39-point games.

### Players of the week

**Adela Cecunjanin, Cromwell:** Cecunjanin posted 16 points, 11

rebounds and four blocks in a 53-42 win over Haddam-Killingworth last Tuesday.

**Sophia Coppola, Hand:** Coppola scored the last four points of a 39-35 win over Hamden on Wednesday, finishing with 10 points.

**Jordan Dion, Suffield:** Dion had 20 points, including three 3-pointers, to lead the Wildcats past Stafford 45-36 last Tuesday and had 23 points, five assists, eight rebounds and four steals and hit the winning 3-pointer in a 44-43 win over Bolton on Saturday.

**Ayanna Franks, Windsor:** Franks had 23 points and 12 rebounds in a 77-45 victory over Rocky Hill last Monday.

**Claudia Koiva, Windham Tech:** Koiva led her team with 20 points in a 65-23 win over Vinal Tech last Tuesday and had another 20 points, along with six assists and four steals in a 49-36 win over Parish Hill on Wednesday.

**Ailish Kleinhenn, RHAM:** Kleinhenn scored 20 points, including five 3-pointers, in a 43-39 nonconference win over Bacon Academy (13-2) on Wednesday.

**Megan Loflin, Old Lyme:** Loflin had 15 points and 14 rebounds in a 45-42 victory over Coginchaug last Monday.

**Anna Matus, South Windsor:** Matus had 19 points in a 42-31 victory over Platt Thursday.

### Storylines of the week

■ Offbeat stat of the week provided by Conard's Eddie Litos: Callie Cosgrove (18

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Tuesday:** vs. Marquette (at XL Center), 6:30 p.m., FS1

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Wednesday:** vs. Villanova (at XL Center), 7 p.m., SNY

**UCONN**  
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UConn guard Tyrese Martin pleads for a foul call against Butler on Jan. 20. Coach Dan Hurley says the Huskies need to regain the passion that's been missing the past two games.

AJ MAST/AP

## Huskies

from Page 1

things we had to talk about and put on the table. We sent them away for a couple of hours and just turned our attention to Marquette and try to turn the page."

The Huskies haven't beaten a ranked opponent since they beat Auburn on Nov. 24. Against Marquette, they get an opportunity to change that and improve their Q1 record to 3-5 overall. Hurley wants a big crowd for the game.

"We need to play well there (at the XL Center) tomorrow," he said. "We need a great crowd there tomorrow. We need a loud crowd."

Forward Akok Akok is unlikely to play with a foot injury.

Hurley expects his team to play with more emotion.

"I didn't like our body language in the last two (games)," he said. "I didn't see guys finishing plays at the rim and flexing. I didn't see guys finishing through contact (Hurley grabs biceps). There has got to be passion. You have to play with emotion. You can't play emotional, and you can't lose your mind out there. You've got to play with some pop."

Here's everything you need to know about the matchup:

## The basics

**Time:** 6:30 p.m., Tuesday

**Site:** XL Center, Hartford

**Series:** Tied 6-6

**Last meeting:** UConn won, 78-70, on Dec. 21 at Fiserv Forum

**TV:** FS1 (Aaron Goldsmith, Donny Marshall)

**Live Stream:** Fox Sports app

**Radio:** UConn Sports Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). XM-201. Sirius-137. XM-202. SXM app-965. 97.9-ESPN Hartford.

WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic). WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury). WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven).

WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

## No. 18 Marquette (16-7, 8-4 Big East) probable starters, 6th man

Justin Lewis, F, 6-7, R-Fr.; Darryl Morsell, G, 6-5, GS; Kur Kuath, F, 6-10, GS; Tyler Kolek, G, 6-3, R-Fr.; OMax Prosper, F, 6-8, R-Fr.; Oso Ighodaro, F, 6-9, R-Fr.

## No. 24 UConn (15-6, 6-4) probable starters, 6th man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Jordan Hawkins, G, 6-5, Fr.

## The matchup

**UConn offense:** Feed Sanogo the ball early and often. The Huskies' offense opens up tremendously if he is aggressive and makes shots, which will help prevent another slow offensive start.

**UConn defense:** The Huskies need to regain their physical identity, starting on the defensive glass. Marquette only averages 6.2 offensive rebounds per game, tied for No. 332 in NCAA Division I.

**Marquette offense:** Lewis leads the team in scoring with 17.7 points per game on 44.4% shooting, so he will be the primary focus. He had 19 points on 7-for-12 in the last game against Villanova.

**Marquette defense:** The Golden Eagles are ranked No. 24 in defensive efficiency with 92.9 according to KenPom.

**UConn's key:** Get back on track defensively while making shots from beyond the arc.

**Player to watch:** Sanogo. He's been quiet on the offensive end in the last couple of games, and it's pivotal for him to play better.

**About Marquette's coach:** Shaka Smart. In his coaching career, he has coached 10 NBA players.

sladdha@courant.com.

## Olympics

from Page 1

Later Monday, Zhou announced he his withdrawal from the men's competition.

"I have been doing everything in my power to stay free of COVID since the start of the pandemic," Zhou said in an emotional Instagram post. "I've taken all the precautions I can. I've isolated myself so much that the loneliness I've felt in the last month or two has been crushing at times."

Chen has been taking so much precaution that he wears his mask in the dining hall, only dipping it down to take a bite before putting it right back in place. He isn't taking any chances with what could be his final Olympics, especially given the long, four-year wait since his disappointing fifth-place finish at the Pyeongchang Games.

"Because it's happened — everyone is talking about it and thinking about it," Chen said. "And hopefully that gets people involved a little bit more, being a little more careful and doing what they need to do."

The showdown between Chen and Hanyu is one of the marquee events of the

Winter Olympics. (Their short programs began around 9 p.m. EST Monday and weren't over in time for this edition.)

Since the 2018 Olympics, Chen, 22, has drilled harder into his programs with his longtime coach, Rafael Arutyunyan, even while he juggled his studies at Yale. And the results came through on the ice, where Chen has won three consecutive world championships, pushed his national championship streak to six and has been generally unbeatable.

His only loss since Pyeongchang? To his teammate Zhou at Skate America last fall.

The reason he's been so dominant has been his array of quads, the jump that was once cutting edge but now has become standard fair. Most of the skaters in the field can land them, but few do so with the degree of elevation, difficulty and, well, panache — not to mention the remarkable consistency that sees Chen rarely hit the ice.

"If I wake up on the right side of the bed, they are effortless," he joked, "and if not, they are not so effortless. I try my best; sometimes they are good; sometimes they are bad. As with anything, you learn any time you make a

mistake, and you try to make it better the next time."

The only quad that Chen has never landed — though he's tried a few times while goofing around in practice — is the quad axel, which involves 4 1/2 rotations. In fact, only a few have tried it in competition, and nobody has ever landed it.

Hanyu could change that this week. He landed a couple of shaky ones during his final practice Monday.

"Yuzuru has definitely pushed me a lot," Chen said.

"Long before I competed against him, he was that benchmark for what an exceptional figure skater should be. I remember watching him when I was at the Junior Grand Prix Final, he was at the senior final and I was amazed at how good he was, how much he commanded the audience. He was a shining star."

Chen has had plenty of success in his head-to-head meetings with Hanyu since Pyeongchang. But while marquee events such as the Grand Prix Final are important, and the world championships are nearly the pinnacle of the sport, nothing tops winning a gold medal at the Olympics, and so far that is the one thing Chen has yet to accomplish.

## UConn

from Page 1

Regardless of what the committee says, where do the No. 8 UConn women go from here as they close out the regular season? Here are a few things that come to mind:

## Stay healthy

The Huskies can't seem to catch a break, as six of their nine regular rotation players (plus Geno Auriemma) have missed at least one game this season with illness or injury. After getting back Dorka Juhász from a foot injury that kept her out two games, Caroline Ducharme was the latest Husky forced to watch from the sideline Sunday after taking a couple of hits to the head in previous games. Auriemma didn't seem overly concerned that Ducharme would miss significant time. Still, Evina Westbrook, Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Aaliyah Edwards are the only players to appear in all 19 games this season.

It may seem obvious, but it's worth saying: For the Huskies to reach their ceiling, they need to stay healthy. It's not just about having enough bodies and key contributors on the floor, but every opportunity those eight (theoretically soon to be nine with Bueckers) have to play together, the more they can mesh and better understand each others' roles.

Realistically, Fudd more than the rest needs the reps with the rest of the team and vice versa. She's played in just eight games all season, and she wasn't fully healthy in the first half of them. Sunday's career-best 25-point outing may have been the push she needed to embrace her role as a (or even the) go-to scorer on this team.

## Reduce bouts of inconsistency

Over the course of the season, the Huskies have improved at finding a burst of energy after slow starts, turning things around if there's a lull mid-game and fighting through adversity to still make winning plays when the game's on the line. With only Big East play from here on out, the next step is to reduce the frequency and length of those bouts of inconsistency. Specifically, UConn needs to execute on offense and limit turnovers; defend tenaciously; and, ideally, continue to get a good inside-out game going.

As great as the Huskies looked Sunday, they seemed to lose some focus in the final 13 minutes, allowing their 26-point lead to be cut in half midway through the fourth. With less than two minutes to play, Edwards got the ball knocked out of her hands by a Tennessee defender, and Auriemma was so displeased at the lackadaisical play he started pounding the scorers' table. They also laid an egg in the first quarter at Creighton before their defense turned things around.

"When we're healthy and we're on, we're basically unstoppable," Fudd said Saturday. "Coach says it all the time: The only people that can stop us are ourselves because when we've got it, we've got it."

Auriemma said earlier this year the only thing consistent with his team is inconsistency. Can they change that with March just around the corner?

## What does reinserting Bueckers look like?

While Auriemma told reporters that Bueckers is "right on schedule" as she recovers from a tibial plateau fracture and lateral meniscus tear, it's unclear what that means in terms of her return to game play. Monday was the eight-week mark from her December surgery.

Still, Auriemma appears to already be envisioning what reinserting Bueckers into the lineup may look like. When she returns, she'll not be expected to do as much heavy-lifting as she did in November and early December. The people around her are better, everyone's roles more defined.

"Paige is the kind of kid that, if we do get her back sooner rather than later, she doesn't care if she takes any shots," Auriemma said Sunday. "So that's one more distributor, one more smart decision-maker, one more good defender. ... Then you can kind of play it by ear every game: Somebody's got it going, let's go with them. Like Azzi today. Another day, it might be somebody else. ... You'd love to have a couple of those guys and not just one."

Who could those players be? Bueckers, Fudd, Ducharme. Don't forget Christyn Williams and Westbrook. And if they have an advantage inside, there's also some mix of Nelson-Ododa, Juhász and Edwards.

After being rather one-dimensional parts of the season, the Huskies finally have depth, and Bueckers is not just able to add to it, but is best equipped to help them exploit it.

## Can they peak at the right time?

Auriemma has long used the beginning of February as a benchmark for when the Huskies should start really looking like an NCAA Tournament team and playing their best basketball. Last year the team started peaking heading into the postseason and aside from defeating then-No. 1 South Carolina, it beat all but one Big East team by at least 21 points and won each conference tournament game by at least 34.

This year, after a "lousy" effort in Auriemma's eyes against Providence on Jan. 30, UConn rebounded with a pair of wins to start February over a strong Creighton team and a tough Tennessee squad, indicating UConn is heading in the right direction.

Despite so many injuries and disruption, will UConn be able to play to its ceiling when the season's on the line? How the Huskies close out their remaining eight regular season games, half of which are against the conference's better teams, will inform whether or how quickly they can get there.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at [aphilippou@courant.com](mailto:aphilippou@courant.com).

## UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Previously canceled home game rescheduled; UConn up to No. 8

By Alexa Philippou  
 Hartford Courant

The UConn women's basketball team will make up another one of its canceled Big East games from December, as the school announced it will now host Marquette on Feb. 23 at the XL Center. The two squads were supposed to play Dec. 29 before both programs dealt with COVID-19 issues following the holidays.

The game will tip at 7 p.m. and air on SNY.

The Big East has now rescheduled two of UConn's five canceled Big East games. It is unclear whether there will be make-ups for the Huskies' meetings at Georgetown, at Villanova and against Butler. They beat DePaul 80-78 in Chicago on Jan. 26, a game that originally was supposed to be played Dec. 31 before getting canceled due to UConn's COVID-19 issues.

Marquette is third in league standings behind UConn and DePaul.

With that game now on the docket, UConn will close its regular season with four games in eight days, all of which are at home and the first three of which are at the XL Center.

Per UConn, season ticket holders and those who bought a three-game mini-plan or single-game ticket for the matchup can use their original tickets to the game.

## Azzi Fudd named Big East freshman of the week

UConn's Azzi Fudd was named Big East freshman of the week for the first time after averaging 17.5 points on 57.1% shooting, including a 75.0% clip from 3, in the Huskies' wins over Creighton and Tennessee last week. She scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to put away Creighton on Wednesday and exploded for 25 (featuring 7 for 9 shooting from 3) to take down the Lady Vols on Sunday.

Redshirt senior Evina Westbrook earned a place on the conference's weekly honor roll on the heels of her 14-point, four-rebound, three-assist outing against Tennessee.

## Huskies move up in AP rankings

Following UConn's 75-56 win over then-No. 7 Tennessee on Sunday, the Huskies rose two spots in Associated Press women's basketball poll to No. 8, while the Lady Vols slipped six spots to No. 13.

UConn was Tennessee's third loss in four games, two of which were to unranked teams. The Huskies have now won six straight since falling to Oregon.

## Did you know?

Parents carrying children up and down the stairs is one of the leading causes of falls.

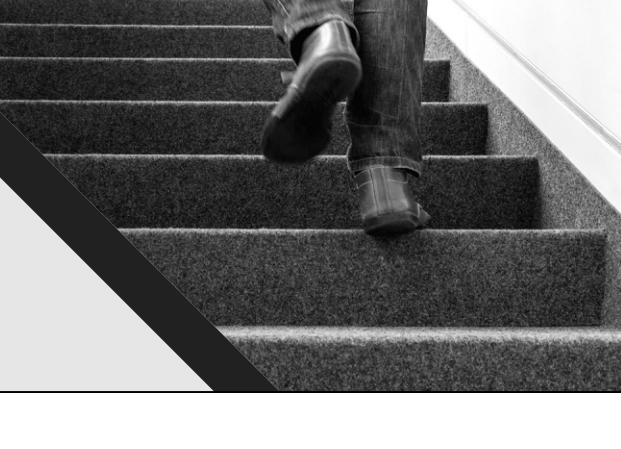
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# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

## SHORTS

### MLB stops drug testing amid lockout

Major League Baseball has stopped testing players for steroids for the first time in nearly 20 years due to the expiration of the sport's drug agreement, The Associated Press reported Monday. The halt in testing is a casualty of the sport's lockout that started Dec. 2 and a provision in the joint drug agreement between MLB and the players' association that states "the termination date and time of the program shall be 11:59 p.m. ET on Dec. 1, 2021." "It should be a major concern to all those who value fair play," Travis Tygart, chief executive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, said Monday. MLB and the union declined comment on the halt. Last month, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were denied election to the Hall of Fame by baseball writers over suspicions of PEDs use. Manny Ramirez and Alex Rodriguez, who both served drug suspensions, fell well short in voting. MLB and the union conducted 47,973 tests from 2017-21, including 7,327 during offseas, according to a report in November from Thomas M. Martin, the independent program administrator. Absent fear of detection, it's hard to predict whether some players will attempt to use PEDs in the period before a new collective bargaining agreement is in place.

### Speedskater makes Olympic history



Ireen Wüst can't really explain it. Something inside of her just changes when she gets to an Olympic Games. Her confidence soars. Her legs feel stronger. When she needs that little extra bit of speed, it's always there. "I don't know what it is," Wüst said. "I just see the rings and something magical happens."

It happened again Monday, at the age of 35, pushing the Dutch speedskating star into a class of her own. Wüst glided into the record books with a victory in the 1,500 meters at the Beijing Games, becoming the first athlete — woman or man, winter or summer — to claim individual gold medals at five different Olympics. Wüst pushed her medal haul to an even dozen, a collection she started gathering in her debut at the 2006 Turin Games. But what made this one really stand out was the color. Gold. She's got six of them now — five in individual events that are evenly distributed over each of the Olympics she has competed in during her remarkable career. Still, winning another gold will not dissuade Wüst from her plans to retire after the Beijing Games. "This is it," she said. "I will leave on top."

### Auburn football investigation grows

Auburn's examination of football coach Bryan Harsin continues. The university is looking into Harsin's program, which has lost 18 players and five assistant coaches since the end of his first season in which the team finished with a 6-7 record. Harsin maintained in an interview with ESPN late last week that he's "not planning on going anywhere." Harsin, 45, arrived at Auburn after being hired away from Boise State in December 2020. Last week, recently hired offensive coordinator Austin Davis announced he was resigning for personal reasons after replacing a fired Mike Bobo. In January, defensive coordinator Derek Mason left for Oklahoma State. Central Florida defensive tackle Lee Hunter, among the players who left the program, made a social media post criticizing Harsin's handling of players. "Coach Harsin has the true mindset for a winner but has a terrible mindset as a person," Hunter wrote on Instagram. "The reason I chose to leave Auburn (was) because we got treated like we weren't good enough and like dogs." Other Auburn players rose to his defense, and Harsin told ESPN: "None of that is who I am." Harsin replaced Gus Malzahn, who was fired after last season and received a buyout of \$21.45 million.

—Associated Press



Three-time Olympic medalist Mikaela Shiffrin is eager for her upcoming events after falling in the giant slalom Monday. ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

## OLYMPICS ALPINE SKIING

# Shiffrin off course early on

American falls in giant slalom, but more medal chances ahead

By Andrew Dampf

Associated Press

BEIJING — Mikaela Shiffrin will not soon forget what happened Monday in her first race of the Beijing Olympics. The poor transition that came five turns, and about 10 seconds, into the defense of her 2018 gold medal in the giant slalom. The skidding slide onto her left side. The missed gate that meant she was done so early in the opening run of a two-leg event.

The first "DNF" — "Did Not Finish" — next to her name on any GS result sheet in more than four years, a streak encompassing 30 races.

It's not simply about how rare these mistakes are. It's about the sting that sticks with her.

"I won't ever get over this," Shiffrin said, her voice steady, after slowly making her way to the bottom of a course known as The Ice River at the Yanqing Alpine Skiing Center. "I've never gotten over any."

That's what happens when an athlete is as successful as Shiffrin, a 26-year-old American who owns three Winter Games medals — including a pair of golds — along with three World Cup overall titles and six world championship victories.

The misses stand out.

She speaks about "how much it hurt" and how "heartbreaking" it was when she failed to complete a giant slalom on Jan. 23, 2018, in the Kronplatz World Cup stop at San Vigilio di Marebbe, Italy — the last time she didn't complete a GS, which came three weeks before she won the gold at the Pyeongchang Games. She mentioned, too, a slalom error before those same Olympics.

And a flub six years ago in another race.

"That's what drives me to try to keep working and improving, so I can try to make it (so) those things don't happen. But sometimes they still do happen and, unfortunately, it happened today," said Shiffrin, who plans to be out there again Wednesday in the slalom, a race she won at age 18 at the 2014 Sochi Games. "I felt like there was a lot to look forward to, but, well, now we need to reset."

The giant slalom was the first women's Alpine race on the schedule in Beijing — Shiffrin intends to enter all five — and she was hardly the only racer to encounter trouble. The second run went on without her; in all, 19 of the 80 first-run starters failed to finish.

Sara Hector of Sweden — who leads the GS standings this season — continued her recent run of success with the biggest win of her career later Monday, taking the gold with a two-run time of 1 minute, 55.69 seconds.

Federica Brignone of Italy added a silver medal to the bronze she claimed behind Shiffrin four years ago. Lara Gut-Behrami of Switzerland was third for her second Olympic bronze.

Shiffrin, who's from Colorado, was the seventh racer out of the start gate, lost control coming around a left-turn and later blamed "trying to push it," describing her skiing as "almost anxious."

She tried to right herself but could not.

Eventually, she propped herself up, stopped on the side of slope, stuck her poles in the snow and put her hands on her hips.

"It's hard to know," she said later, "how it would have gone the rest of the run. ... It's like, 'Well, yeah, the day was finished, basically, before it even started.'"

Shiffrin is as precise a skier as there is, someone who prides herself on making sure she gets all the way down the course, pushing

ing just the right amount to be faster than everyone else while staying upright — no easy task while sending yourself down the icy side of a mountain.

"That's the brutality of the sport: You can be as prepared as you want to and you still ski out in the fourth gate or the seventh gate or the 10th gate," said Norwegian rival Ragnhild Mowinckel, who was fifth Monday after getting the GS silver in 2018. "Anyhow, I think (Shiffrin) will rise up again and she will probably nail the slalom and the other disciplines."

After her tumble, Shiffrin spoke to her boyfriend, Norwegian skier Aleksander Aamodt Kilde, who finished fifth Monday in the men's downhill won by Beat Feuz of Switzerland.

"Of course it's a pity to ski out early in the race, but that's also part of the game," Kilde said. "She tried and she went for it 100%."

Shiffrin speaks honestly and openly about the pressure created by the weight of expectations — her own, of course, and those of fans, but also coaches, friends and family. She's upfront about the burden of dealing with the accidental death of her father, Jeff, two years ago.

Not long after Shiffrin's competitive day was done far sooner than expected, she got a hug from her mother, Eileen, who serves as one of her coaches, then headed back out to do some training for the slalom.

Shiffrin still should have a handful of chances over the next two weeks to become the first Alpine ski racer from the United States to win three Olympic golds across a career.

"I'm not going to cry about this," she said Monday, "because that's just wasting energy."

AP writers Daniella Matar and Howard Fendrich contributed to this report.

## SUPER BOWL 56 ANALYSIS

# Don't expect big gambles on 4th down

By Josh Dubow

Associated Press

The Rams and Bengals got to the Super Bowl with help from a couple of coaching decisions by their conference title game opponents that backfired.

If the Super Bowl comes down to a crucial fourth-down choice by Rams coach Sean McVay or Bengals counterpart Zac Taylor, history shows they may opt for the conservative path.

After regular season when teams set records for how often they went on fourth downs as more and more younger coaches embrace analytics, the two coaches who made it to the Super Bowl were more outliers.

Both the Rams and the Bengals finished in the bottom quarter of the league in fourth-down tries in the regular season.

"McVay has been sort of painted as the young up-and-comer coach. But he's not a sort of traditional guy that embraces analytics," said Frank Frigo, the co-founder of analytics company EdjSports. "He still kind of is a very much sort of an intuition guy when it comes to analytics. Taylor was really bad out of the shoot, but I think he's improved a little bit."

EdjSports ranked Taylor 21st and McVay 23rd out of 32 in its Critical Call Index. The analytics company has one of the best models for determining when NFL teams should go and when they should kick on fourth downs, using its win probability model that relies on historical play-by-play data adjusted for variables such as the strength and weaknesses of both teams, injuries and other factors.

"Neither one of them are in the top tier," Frigo said. "It's hard for me to give the nod to either in that territory, quite honestly, going into the game right now."

Fourth-down decisions have played big roles in past Super Bowls, with the Eagles using the fourth-down "Philly Special" at the end of the first half and another conversion on the go-ahead drive in the fourth quarter to beat the Patriots four years ago.

Key calls on when to kick and when to go for it played a big role in the conference championships. The Chiefs' decision to go for a touchdown with 5 seconds left in the first half instead of a field goal backfired when Tyreek Hill got tackled at the 2 and time ran out. That led to a second-half comeback win for the Bengals.

The biggest error last weekend, according to EdjSports, came when 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan opted to punt instead of going on fourth-and-2 from the Rams 40 while protecting a three-point lead in the fourth quarter. The Rams drove to the tying score and then won that game 20-17.

"That was a critical moment in the game," Frigo said. "That may very well cost them the game, him puckering up there."

"Those kinds of decisions, especially in a tight game, those things can be pretty impactful."

The EdjSports analysis said McVay's fourth-down decisions cost the Rams about one-third of a game in win probability all season.

The Rams had a league-low five attempts when needing more than 1 yard — with one coming on a botched punt snap — and McVay opted to go in his own territory only twice all season, with one of the attempts coming on a fourth-and-1 from his 49.

Taylor's decisions cost the Bengals more than a quarter of a win all season, according to EdjSports, with most of his best decisions coming when he went on fourth-and-short plays between the 40s.

Taylor's best decision helped set the tone for the Bengals' season in the opener when he went on fourth-and-1 in his own territory in the final minute of overtime. Joe Burrow converted with a big pass play to C.J. Uzomah and the Bengals beat the Vikings in OT.

